8-1943
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Carver Did Not Live to See Story of His Life Published

By Harry Hansen.

JAN 17 1943

New York.

WHEN George Washington Carver, the famous agronomist of Tuskegee, died a few days ago, Mrs. Rackham Holt of Chicago had just put the finishing touches on the manuscript of his biography and Doubleday, Doran & Co. was sending it to the printer. For three years she had worked on it, patiently constructing the life story of one of the most interesting and useful practical scientists America has developed. Author and publisher had planned to present the completed book to Carver at Founder's day exercises at Tuskegee, April 4. But Carver was not to live to see it.

I don't suppose Carver could be rushed, for all his life he was calm and unhurried, and maybe that is why he did so much for agriculture. Born the son of slaves, Carver had the humility of a man of great gifts. I was at Tuskegee once on Founder's day and had a talk with him in the shade of his laboratory. His opening remark was characteristic: "I've done some work with the soy bean and the peanut . . . Heavens, he had done more than any other scientist, and his work with the soy bean was comparable to Edison's with the electric light. This frail, calm man had worked his way thru high school in Kansas and college in Iowa—he attended the Iowa State College of Agriculture in the 1890's. In 1939 he came to New York City to receive the Theodore Roosevelt medal for distinguished service, which was given to **Carl Sandburg** on the same occasion.

JAN 17 1943

Mrs. Holt did a great deal of work on the book in Tuskegee, at one time living there for five months. She has done much editorial work and helped materially on the manuscripts of the autobiographies of **Dr. Victor Heiser** and **Margaret Sanger.** Her husband was the late Guy Holt, publisher and one of the founders of the John Day company and Whittlesey House. Mrs. Holt is now living in Chicago.

A Coney Island Distorting Glass Reflection of Life as Seen in

William March has tried to hold up a mirror to the life of a small Alabama town that his "Looking Glass" is a Coney Island distorting glass, which reflects only the grotesque, in swelled, squashed, twisted versions of humanity. It is a book which at best will never touch your emotions and at worst may make you furious.

The New Yorker

Reedyville's inhabitants read like the inmates of an asylum. Dr. Snowfield, obsessed with the belief that he is a Negro; Rance Palmiller, a young genius who kills himself; his incredibly obnoxious father, Hubert Palmiller; the Goodwife of Death, who believes herself wedded to death; Honey Boutwell, the talented nymphomaniac; Mattress May, the town prostitute and mother of Ira Graley, who overcoming the obstacles of a childhood of meaningless cruelty, becomes in later years a great psychiatrist; these are only half of the book's weird characters.

The story wanders in and out of these people's lives, describing at one point the gradual development—or madness of the Goodwife of Death, weaving into Mr. Kenworthy's passion for 13-year-old Honey Boutwell, to Ira Graley's plan to visit his mother's establishment on his 21st birthday, his identity unknown to her, to Hubert Palmiller's perverted love for his platinum-haired daughter, Clarry, to Dr. Snowfield's decision to perform an illegal operation for Clarry (without sterilizing the instruments) to Clarry's death and so on.

JAN 31 1943

Humor Consists of Practical Jokes

In between are spatterings of "humor." Breck Boutwell's practical jokes make up the bulk of these incidents, such as the time he tricks the town Vice Committee into believing they have all been poisoned.

Mr. March writes an involute, decorated prose well suited to his material. For example: "All day long the yellow, the red and the lavender particles of dust had stirred and trembled and lifted beneath the feet of the passer-by; and they had risen in fragile clouds, like dry vapor, from the bed of the road, to drift outward languidly, in ever-widening arcs, toward the horizon. The multi-colored, drifting particles of dust had seemed of no importance in themselves; trivial and unseen in the burning light of day; but now, when the sun had withdrawn its power into concentrated light in the west, the drifting dust had caught fire, and had broken at last into flames, so that seemed now, at the close of day, as if the whole world were burning up in a mystic, unquenchable fire."

Books which dig into unexplored areas of thinking and feeling can be stimulating and enriching stuff. Mr. March's diggings however, yield proportionately less and less. In the end of his book you are filled with more confusion and hopelessness than before you began it.

JAN 31 1943

All Over The Map

A good writer must know a great deal, but any writer must at least know his subject. Mr March is all over the map—and he doesn't know the map. When he touches ground familiar to the reader, his inadequacies become particularly glaring.

Look, for example, at Mr. March's pitifully stupid thumbnail sketch of a radical. One of the characters is speaking of Dr. Snowfield's career. "After he left Reedyville, he gave up the practice of medicine, and dedicated himself to the radical labor movement. . . . He went about the country making the most astounding speeches. . . . Then war came along—the one in 1917 . . . and it was then that he really denounced the Government in earnest! It was something about Negro soldiers being denied their right to be shot in the trenches as freely as their white comrades. I may be a naive type, but it seems to me that the Negro soldiers should have been pleased at such discrimination, rather than offended. . . . He went about, finally, urging people to defy the law and resist the draft, so they had to take him into custody for the duration. When they let him out, he made a little speech. . . . He said it was impossible for him, or any other civilized person, to live in the United States with its stupid, cruel and oppressive Government of harsh, unfeeling capitalists. He said he was going to Russia where the rights of men were held sacred; where people enjoyed freedom and lived without fear. He did so. They shot him."

The measure of every writer cannot be completely taken by his knowledge and approach to the people's movement — but it's a pretty good gauge. And Mr. March doesn't measure up.

William March, author of "The Looking Glass," published by Little, Brown & Co.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

BOOKS OF INTEREST
By Augustus B. Baker

Steppin And Family by Hope Newell; illustrated by A. Peck. Oxford Universty Press, New York, N. Y. $2.00.

STEPPIN lives in Harlem with his mother and sister. Mary Ellis Steppin's one and only interest in life is to become a great tap-dancer. Steppin's mother could not afford to pay for Steppin's dancing lessons because mother had to work too hard to provide a home for her children. One day while Steppin (Steppin and Family, by Hope Newell, Oxford University Press, N. Y. $2.00.) was sitting under the famous "Washing Tree" on Seventh Avenue a man drove up and asked him what were his wishes.

This man was Bob Williams (we recognize "Bojangles" Robinson) the great tap-dancer, and it was he who changed Steppin's whole life for he sent Steppin to Dad's dancing school. The story not only deals with the fulfillment of Steppin's desire but it also paints a true and most interesting picture of family life in Harlem.

Anne Peck has drawn Steppin and his family and friends with accuracy and sympathetic understanding. She has caught the spirit of Harlem and the Negro race and yet she has not found it necessary to carica-ture. The book is full of humor but it has some time a superintendent of the Harlem Henry Street Settlement Nurses. This section of contact. The book will appeal to youth and grown-ups. It has humor in close contact or, suspense and all with the people of Harlem and Steppin was born from that experience brought her a good book. make a story to necessary to

OWI Interprets 'Negroes and the War'

Richard Wright, Marian Anderson, Jesse Owens, Satchel Paige and others.

Study Produced In Rotogravure —Is Free Gift Government Issues Booklet On Our Progress

PROPAGANDA is either "a knife in our backs" or *the inspiration to urge us onward* to win the war. The Office of War Information (OWI) realizes this fact and has just released a booklet on *Negroes and the War* which boosts the Negro's morale and informs America and the world that Negroes are Americans, too, with a definite stake in winning the war. The 74-page rotogravure booklet records the achievements of Negro Americans in many fields and aims to show three things:

- just what Negroes are doing in agriculture, industry and the armed services,
- what Negroes have to gain by an American victory, and
- what Negroes have to lose if the axis wins.

By word and picture (141 fotos) the booklet also outlines the progress made by Negroes in recent years in education, economically and in the arts and sciences.

The booklet devotes picture sections to many subjects: The Negro press (not of the Warren Brown description), the church, the farmer, the city dweller, the government worker, music, art, athletics, labor, and industry.

TWO MILLION COPIES ISSUED

This week-end OWI began distributing 2,000,000 copies of the booklet. Distribution is thru insurance companies, churches, schools, colleges, labor unions, motion picture theatres, professional groups and other channels. It is free, for the asking—and is a booklet every American—white or black—should possess, to gain a true impression of the Negro as he is and the all-important role he is filling in the war effort.

If you do not already possess a copy of *Negroes and the War*, don't postpone securing one; a post card will do the trick. Write to the *Division of Public Inquiries, Office of War Information, Washington, DC.*

Jimcro and other blots on American life take a back seat when one reads *Negroes and the War*. Nothing except the best of thoughts run thru your mind as you read the booklet. . . . In fact, it makes you mighty glad that you are a Negro—developing upward as the American ideal outlines.

BOOKLET'S A MUST

Practically every American Negro idol is included in this study. Among them will be found pictures of Joe ("We'll Win 'Cause We're On God's Side") Louis, Dorie Miller (hero of Pearl Harbor), William Baldwin (first Negro to be inducted in the Navy), officer candidates at the 99th Pursuit Squadron, Brigadier General B. O. Davis (highest ranking Negro officer), Bill H. Hastie, Justice Myles Paige, Bill Pickens, Bob Weaver, Ex-Congressman A. Mitchell, Mary McL. Bethune, Lester B. Granger, Willard S. Townsend, Captain ("*Man of the Year*") H. Mulzac, and A. Philip Randolph.

Also members of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, George W. Carver, Walter White, Paul Robeson, Justice Jane Bolin, C. C. Spaulding, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Maxine Sullivan, Bill Robinson, W. C. Handy, Duke Ellington, Joe ("We'll Win 'Cause We're On God's Side") Louis, Dorie Miller (hero of Pearl Harbor), William Baldwin (first Negro to be inducted in the Navy), officer candidates at the 99th Pursuit Squadron, Brigadier General B. O. Davis (highest ranking Negro officer), Bill H. Hastie, Justice Myles Paige, Bill Pickens, Bob Weaver, Ex-Congressman A. Mitchell, Mary McL. Bethune, Lester B. Granger, Willard S. Townsend, Captain ("*Man of the Year*") H. Mulzac, and A. Philip Randolph.

Also members of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, George W. Carver, Walter White, Paul Robeson, Justice Jane Bolin, C. C. Spaulding, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Maxine Sullivan, Bill Robinson, W. C. Handy, Duke Ellington, the life of Dr. George W. Carver but a story for the inspiration of adolescent boys and girls. be published at an early date.

The playwright has just completed collaboration on a stage play based on Haitian history and plans to begin work on a book pertaining to the Negro soldier in the spring.

The Carver work is expected to

PROS AND CONS

Chandler Owen, Chicago publicist, writes a six-page preface to the study. He is hailed by OWI as "widely recognized for his trenchant style, his inquiring and objective thinking, his solid and scholarly research, and his cultural understanding."

In any work as broad as *Negroes and the War* there must be exceptions. Hence many folk will question Owen when it comes to special fields and treatment. However, all in all, both Owen and OWI did an excellent job in preparing a study—not for the specialist, but for the public at large. . . . After all, it is the public that needs the info.

The booklet goes so far as to put the cards on the table and question:

"Progress? Yes. Too slow? Yes; but progress," the OWI crew admits, without a suggested method for improved progress.

What would happen to the Negro under hitler? *Pardon*, this is where we came in. Secure a booklet (you'll never regret it) and find the answer.

—S. W. GARLINGTON

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Children's Story of Dr. Carver Will Be Published Very Soon

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Shirley Graham, colored playwright, has been

on the Tuskegee Institute campus for several days checking her forthcoming children's book on

Miss Graham recently joined the editorial staff of Common Sense Magazine after serving for the past year as a hostess with the USO at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. She stated that the book is not a biog-

8-1943

THE NEGRO IN HISTORY

Globe & Independent

The NASHVILLE BANNER of November 24, in its book review section, gave a lengthy and flattering review of "The Negro, Too, In American History," whose author is Prof. Merl Eppse, head of the department of history at Tennessee A. and I. State College.

This review, as have others of the book, credits Prof. Eppse with having engaged in extensive and indefatigable research to produce his book, and goes on to express the opinion that the author "shows neither bias nor partisanship" and for this fact believes the history to be an unusually reliable source book.

DEC 3 - 1943

Not ever having had a text of Prof. Eppse's history submitted to us for review, we are not in position to express an opinion as to its contents as a text on history. We do not know whether it is or is not an improvement on other texts by several of our better known Negro historians. We are sure, however, Prof. Eppse merits the praise he is given by the daily paper for the painstaking efforts he has put forth to bring to the attention of many not hitherto acquainted with the fact that the Negro, too, has made a worthy contribution down through the years, to the advancement of his country.

DEC 3 - 1943

The BANNER gives one quotation from Prof. Eppse's book. This was in reference to the Reconstruction Period, concerning which there has been so much false propaganda published. Prof. Eppse's book, the reviewer states, pictures the recently-freed Negroes as having been "suddenly torn from their moorings and had not found themselves. . . . . They were lied to , petted and flattered to such an extent by their pseudo-friends that many lost all ideas of making an honest living themselves."

If, as we presume, Prof. Eppse is a thorough student of history, we feel he has "balanced" in his book the achievements of the Reconstruction era against the admitted evils of that period, so as to show that even at that time Negroes made worthy contributions to the advancement of the South. This has been done by the ablest of Negro historians, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, in what passes for the best outline on Negro history—"The African Background Outlined"—which refers to the Reconstruction Period as follows:

DEC 3 - 1943

Nashville, Tenn.

"On the whole, reconstruction was a success. Unfortunately it tended to intensify the feelings of the races against each other, but much good was accomplished. Social reforms which the conservative element had formerly frowned down upon were inaugurated. The whipping post was abolished, branding with irons discontinued, land monopoly was attacked, education at public expense was provided for, suffrage was extended to poor whites, and representation in the government was based on population rather than interests. More consideration was given the laboring man. The good things of life under the new regime were treated as belonging to the many rather than to the few. The Negro was later eliminated from the equation but the good which he helped to accomplish has been retained for the benefit of others who deny him his share merely because he was never an enslaver."

DEC 3 - 1943

Propagandists have undertaken, not without considerable success, to make it appear that the Reconstruction governments in the South were the most corrupt of any the South has ever had. Dr. Woodson enlightens us about this, as follows:

DEC 3 - 1943

"There was corruption everywhere, especially in the East and the North where there was sufficient wealth to invite such methods, but merely because Negroes were participants in government at this time, writers have told us much about Southern frauds in the payment of expenses and carrying out contracts for roads, canals and bridges which nobody ever used. Whites handled most of these funds and committed most of these abuses. After restoration of the former white ruling class to office, moreover, there was as much fraud in two of these states as that under the Negroes and the carpet-baggers, but writers fail to refer to these later abuses."

It is well known that very generally the output of history on the Reconstruction Period has followed the pattern of Claude Bowers' "The Tragic Era." There has been so little of truth to combat this prejudicial propaganda until it is possible that the attemptts of colored writers to compile histories may result in them being the unconscious victims of a number of the half-truths and falsehoods that have been palmed off on the public as history. We need to be on guard to prevent unscientific writings from being introduced into our schools and allowed thereby to "mis-educate" future generations to the extent that this evil has been perpetrated against the youth of other years.

Ottley's 'New World' Exhibited In N.Y. Library

Bee (Magazine Section

Chicago, Ill

OCT 3 - 1943

NEW YORK, Sept. 23—(ANP)—The original drawings, typescript and galley of Roi Ottley's Life-in-America Prize book, "New World A-Coming," subtitled "Inside Black America," are on display at the 135th Street branch of New York Public Library in the exhibition room of the Schomberg Collection of Negro literature.

The exhibit occupies three display cases and includes a large photograph of Roi Ottley, an autographed copy of the book, and the 12 original line drawings showing scenes of various aspects of life in Harlem by John O'Hara Cosgrove, 2d, now in the armed services. Since the book deals largely with Negro life in Harlem, two other books on Harlem are included: "Black Manhattan," by James Weldon Johnson, and "Harlem: Negro Metropolis," by Claude McKay

BOOK REVIEWS

AUG 1943

Lewis Gannett, the astute New York Herald Tribune book critique, said Roi Ottley's "New World a-Coming" was "as if written to interpret the recent rioting in Harlem." Analyzing under his widely read by-line—"Books and Things"—Gannett further states that Mr. Ottley's book "is a shrewd, lively and

Chicago Bee

ROI OTTLEY.

often surprising interpretation of the present state of mind of Negro America, especially as reflected in New York City."

"New World a-Coming" goes much further than a simple interpretation of the present state of mind of Negro America. Rather, it pierces the oblique facade of the obvious and lays bare before the reader the deeper economic and social factors which motivate and make articulate the black masses. To do this, it required a summation of the acme of intellectual honesty on the part of the author—a type of throwing caution to the winds. It is no easy task to analyze candidly the true faults and achievements along with the primary and ultimate motives of a people to whose destiny you are shackled because of the value placed on the color of a human's skin. Particularly in his treatment of the various movements to better the plight of "Black Americans" and the fundamental differences of opinion of Negro leaders, is the extraordinary candidness and fairness of the author shown. He wades into a job fitted for a Titan and tackles it in a titan's manner.

Despite his youth, Mr. Ottley seems to be gifted with considerable forensic intuition. He writes in delightfully free and fluid style which, despite the serious and documentary nature of the work, is filled with a buoyancy that makes it easy for one to read. Behind the oftentimes blatant facts there seems to always lurk a tantalizing bit of elfish humor.

"New World a-Coming" marks another phase in the black man's search for true democracy—that of self-criticism. It is indicative of the thinking of the new generation of Afro Americans who now examine themselves in preparation for bigger and broader social horizons in the post-war world. This, in spite of known political, social, economic and psychological hazards, Ottley pictures a people skeptical but unafraid of the future—who have firm grip on the reins of their common destiny. He sees a happy people fighting for their rights—for a "New World a-Coming," and thanking God for their unconquerable souls.

The documentation of the book generally is excellent. Several errors were made however, partially due to the swift change of situations since the manuscript was submitted. Both author and publisher have graciously agreed to make the necessary corrections in the next edition.

Defender Chicago, Ill.

NAACP Pamphlet On Detroit Riots Ready

NEW YORK.—"W[illegible]ased the Detroit [illegible] pamphlet which presents a keen analytical study of the deep social maladjustments that set off the June carnival of violence that cost 34 lives and the loss of millions of war-work hours, is now available to the public, the N.A.A.C.P. announced this week. Joint authors of the pamphlet are Thurgood Marshall, associate counsel, and Walter [illegible] director of the organization's special [illegible]

AUG 14 1943

About Books

By CONSTANCE H. CURTIS

Amsterdam News

For Your Christmas List

The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull and dry.

New York, N. Y.

That books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy.

The [illegible]ple talk about be never can recall; And the books that people

Pipes left his clerkship at Forty-[illegible] to be one of the most unexpected literary finds of 1943.

Acre Store in Oklahoma [illegible] critics to be

Louisiana a year [illegible] time to

Norman to [illegible] He brought with him the

USO. He [illegible] books that he had kept for

note books [illegible] on the sayings and doings

10 years on [illegible] Negro customers from the

Pipes. [illegible] lives and [illegible] plantations and

James [illegible] in the [illegible] mills, and, in the

Pipes, a country storekeeper from Louisiana who chose an Old Testament title and a full cast of Negro characters from his book, "Zoba," released last week by the University

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

AUG 14 1943

Critics Acclaim Book About Negro

AUG 21 1943

give up. Oh, they're the worst of all.

—Carolyn Wells.

* * *

To avoid any or the unfortunate circumstances mentioned in the lines above, here is a list of books which can be given this Christmas with no fear of their not being welcome and appreciated gifts.

George Washington Carver, by Rackman Holt, Doubleday-Doran, $3.50. The biography of the late Tuskegee scientist, done with clarity and respect by a woman who knew him well.

New World A-Coming, by Roi Ottley, Houghton Mifflin. The story of New York and its Negro population, with an emphasis on the historical background as well as the modern life of New York's darker population.

Brothers Under the Skin, by Carey McWilliams. A discussion of the problems of all minority groups in our country in a non-prejudiced handling of the problem and suggested solutions.

Harriet Tubman, by Earl Conrad, Associated, $3.75. Biography of the jealous leader of the underground railroad, written in beautiful English.

The Race Question and the Negro, by John LaFarge, Longmans, $2.50. The thoughts of a Catholic priest on what must be done to make the word "democracy" real. A solid background of factual material.

Race Riot, by Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey, Dryden, $1.50. Collection of data concerning the recent uprisings in Detroit with suggestions as to the methods of preventing their recurrance.

The World Scene

One World, by Wendell Willkie, Simon and Schuster, $2.00. The much read book by Willkie in which his attitude toward the interrelation of all peoples is given.

Here Is Africa, by Elspeth Attlio Gatti, Scribners, $2.50. The account of two much travelled people with an intimate knowledge of the country about which they write. The volume is stocked with well executed photographs.

Journey Among Warriors, by Eve Curie, Doubleday-Doran, $3.50. The first rate reporting of the daughter of the famous scientist on her trip to many of the world's battle-fronts.

The Soong Sisters, by Emily Hahn, Doubleday-Doran, $3.00. Interesting biographies, most important because of the close analysis of Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek.

Indigo, by Christine Weston, Scribners, $2.50. One of the most intensive views of the Indian people written by a woman who knows and understands their culture.

Between Tears and Laughter, by Lin Yutang, Day, $2.00. The Chinese philospher speaks plainly to the people of America, with "no holds barred".

In Lighter Vein

Barnaby, by Crockett Johnson, Henry Holt, $2.00. Collection of the mirth provoking capers of PM's favorite child and his fairy godfather.

Cartoon Cavalcade, edited by Thomas Craven, Simon and Schuster, $3.95. Examples of some of the best work of America's top-flight cartoonists, from Charles Dana Gibson to Peter Arno.

Sports Books Reviewed

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

By E. B. HENDERSON

of the Department of Health and Physical Education, District of Columbia Public School, and author of "The Negro in Sports"

There are two books that every high school boy and girl should read. One is **All-American;** the other is **Keystone Kids.** Both are written by John R. Tunis and published by Harcourt, Brace and Co. of New York City.

All-American is a fine football story. It is an exciting, timely story. The climax comes when the Abraham Lincoln High School team finds its best player, the colored boy on end, is to be kept at home when the team is challenged to play an intersectional game at Miami, Florida. How these boys fighting against odds, solve this problem has been described by John R. Tunis in a way that should stir the hearts of everyone who wants to see courage and character triumph over the sordid elements in American life. It is a great book. The New York Herald-Tribune book critic says, it is "The best story offered to boys not only this year but for a long time." My comment is that it rivals the books put out in the days when the anti-slavery writers were telling their stories. (Editor's Note: This book was previously reviewed in detail by the Journal and Guide sports editor.)

Keystone Kids is a baseball story that challenges the interest of all lovers of the national game. More of inside big-league baseball and player relationship is told in the pages of **Keystone Kids** than in any similar book. With the thrilling story of the fortunes of two rookies who come up through the minors to land berths on the Brooklyn Dodgers as the pivotal players round the keystone sack. But here again Mr. Tunis has made the "thousand years" struggle of the Jew boy on the team against his persecutors the chief theme of his book. Every colored person will thrill with the masterful way Mr. Tunis spins his narratives. Thousands of these books have been sold monthly during the last two years. Colored readers must read these books. You may not be able to buy them at the booksellers around the South. Send to the publishers; review them in your clubs; get them to your boys in the camps. You will spread democracy this way.

BOOKS

By BEN BURNS

"NEW WORLD A-COMING" by Roi Ottley. Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston. $3.

Ottley's New World

SOMEWHAT lean was the literature about the new Negro of today until the lush era of World War I set in with its new interest in minority peoples. What work was produced about black America dealt for the most part with reminiscence in its undue haste to forget and escape from the reality of dismal existence in black ghettos.

Perhaps it was Richard Wright with his grim and at times ghastly study of Bigger Thomas in "Native Son" that broke the ice. But since then the ebb and flow of literary products concerned with minorities of all shades and complexions has been unceasing. Many and oftimes mediocre have been the authors who have turned out tomes as if to cash in on a literary gold rush.

But up to now no writer has yet done a comprehensive, apt and at the same time entertaining book concerning the resolute black men of this decade who are fighting a really historic battle on the race front. The news of the hour therefore is that such a work has finally been chronicled — and by a first rate Negro newspaperman.

He is Roi Ottley, for some seven years a reporter and editor for the Amsterdam Star-News and more recently a free lance magazine contributor.

Building the story of the modern Negro around the environs of Harlem beginning from its earliest settlers in 1626, Ottley has written a book that justly deserves its subtitle "Inside Black America."

Men and Movements

OTTLEY deals with men and movements mainly. He is concerned with the masses and the personalities who have moulded their character. But while that may sound dullish and dismal, Ottley's light-handed pen and his feeling for human interest have given his book the lilting throb of a blues song and the exciting pounding of boogie-woogie. His is a song of Harlem in prose.

In his sweeping report, Ottley makes clear: "Harlem, the most complex of Negro communities, is used as sort of a test tube in which the germs of Negro thought and action are isolated, examined and held up to the full glare to reflect Black America."

Probably his best chapters are those dealing with the background and stories of popular figures such as Marcus Garvey, Father Divine A. Clayton Powell, Joe Louis. He shows a John Gunther-like quality in his studies of these leaders of the community. But just as exhilerating are his comments and seldom-told revelations regarding much of Harlem's inner society, the upper crust of literati, entertainers, mobsters, etc. — the cafe-au-lait society, as he terms them.

His is a comprehensive job, covering all phases of Negro life. Politics, the press, jobs, anti-semitism, housing, it's all here. While much may not be new to the Negro man in the street, still Ottley does such a fine job of writing that there is never a dull moment.

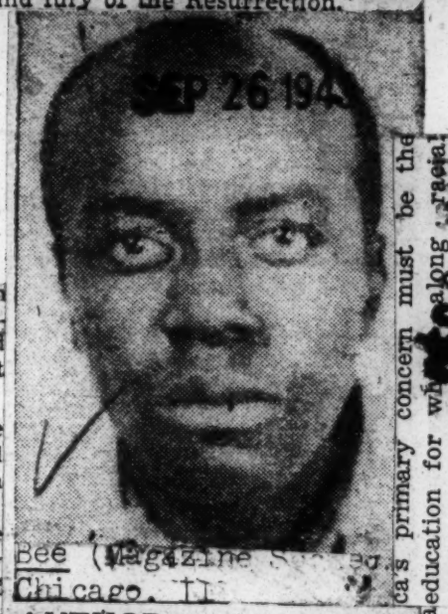
Harlem's History

THE BEST original work is in the careful research on the history of Harlem from its earliest colonial days up to its present setup with the colored peoples of a dozen lands living together in one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

There may be criticism of some of the book's tendency to put people in neat little labeled packages with stock descriptions. But in some respects this is unavoidable.

The antidote lies in Ottley's very finely phrased final chapter in which he virtually writes a manifesto of the Negro's hopes and aspirations for the future. He is also to be commended for stressing throughout that Negroes are essentially a united people, whatever their private quarrels may be. "They have learned, and learned well, the lesson that no individual can rise far above the condition of his race — the lash of color prejudice cuts deeply equally."

His is a call to arms to both races in his final words. "The Negro's cause will rise or fall with America. He knows that his destiny is intimately bound to that of the nation. This war, undeniably, belongs to the Negro as well as to the white man. To this extent, it may be called a 'People's War' — for in spite of selfish interests a new world is a-coming with the sweep and fury of the Resurrection."

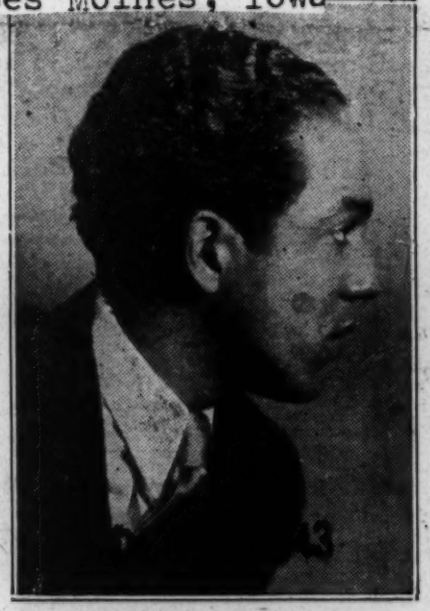


Bee (Magazine S...)
Chicago, Ill.

AUTHOR — A novel of Negro life, "It Was Not My World", has been written and published by Deaderick F. Jenkins. It depicts social and economic conditions in the South and the locale is Mississippi where the author formerly lived. The book exposes secret romances between the races in the South tells how Negroes are exploited, and bares how politicians seek to rise to power by appeals to prejudice.

WRITES ON RACE

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa



LANGSTON HUGHES

Chicago—Langston Hughes, widely known Negro poet and fiction writer, in an article "The Future of Black America", appearing in the November issue of the Negro Digest declares the American reactionaries who ignore the problem here, declares that colored Americans are not a danger to the public peace but an American Negro to be the barometer of all racial minorities are those not only on a national scale but on a world basis.

Writing on the much discussed Negro problem, Hughes sheds new light on the issue, when he declares that "White America's primary concern must be the education of the Negro, today For Americans the place to begin has changed and Americ-teaching it is at home."

8-1943

Time
Chicago, Illinois

Undemocratic America

BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN — Carey McWilliams—*Little, Brown* ($3).

"We have not one, but two, American traditions: the generous, liberal, and democratic tradition; and the narrow, bigoted, and authoritarian tradition. The existence of the latter can be largely explained in terms of our long-standing neglect of colored minorities. . . ."

This neglect, with its harmful effects upon both American character and prestige, is the theme of *Brothers Under the Skin*. Author Carey McWilliams is a former California Commissioner of Immigration & Housing. His description of the U.S. treatment of minorities is blunt; so are his suggested solutions. His ideas stem from years of preoccupation with the history of minority peoples, professional familiarity with Negro homes and segregated quarters, and a long career of opposition to those who see colored poverty and degradation as inevitable. McWilliams' earlier books on labor and agriculture (*Ill Fares the Land, Factories in the Field*) brought a small storm down on their author's head; *Brothers* is likely to whistle up another.

McWilliams supplies old and new information in his survey of U.S. treatment of some 17,000,000 minority peoples:

The Indian, he says, far from becoming extinct, is "our most rapidly growing minority." Indians in the U.S. and Alaska number 394,280, are increasing at the rate of "1% a year compared with 0.7% for the whole population." "It was with the Indian that our patterns of 'color reaction' and 'color behavior' were first conditioned" and became so set that Americans rarely consider that "a large part of [our] race psychology" derives from their ancestors' experiences with Indians on the ever-shifting frontier.

"Fear and anxiety," says McWilliams, led even the most religious Puritans to "feel no compunction when they saw Indian women being clubbed to death and Indian babies being dashed against trees." This anxious attitude changed to indifference after the Indians were conquered; by 1880 most of them had been relegated to reservations, in the belief that "it was cheaper 'to feed than to fight them.'" Under the Dawes Act (1887) arrangements were made for every Indian to obtain eventually a piece of reservation land.

The result, says McWilliams, was tragic. The Indians were used to tribal ownership; once their holdings became individual they fell prey to swindlers and grabbers; their cultural and social solidarity fell apart. (This, McWilliams believes, was the intention of the Dawes Act.) Their language was suppressed in schools ("truly nightmarish institutions"), their religious ceremonies discouraged, their arts and crafts allowed to fade away. By 1923 they had declined in numbers "from the pre-Columbian estimate of 850,000 to around 220,000."

In 1924, Indians were at last accepted as "citizens." In the last decade serious efforts have been made to restore their heritage by adding to, and protecting, their holdings, supplying them with capital, fostering their arts and crafts, etc. By restoring their racial dignity as a group, believes McWilliams, the U.S. has helped them to become more a part of the nation as a whole. They require special treatment, since they compose "300 different tribes speaking 250 different dialects." But, at bottom, their problem is that of all colored minorities.

CAREY MCWILLIAMS
U.S. democracy is not complete.

The Negro. After the Civil War no one, says McWilliams, "could . . . see a connection" between the Indian problem and the new Negro problem. War weariness, desire for reconciliation between the North and South, eagerness to capture the white vote in the South, the determination of Northern industrialists to develop Southern industries—these factors led Northerners to accept the dogma that "the South will solve its own problem." The Supreme Court, through several decisions adverse to Negro rights, "opened the door to the South to establish a system of white supremacy . . . effectively tied the hands of Congress." By "a pretense of legality" discrimination against Negroes was enforced by law throughout the South, the Negro disfranchised and segregated. It became fashionable for Northerners to excuse their compromise through "scientific" theories of the Negro's unfitness for suffrage, his inborn racial inferiority.

The Other Minorities. Better off, from a racial standpoint, were the Hawaiians. In their Islands miscegenation was common; even today racial prejudice operates mainly in awarding "preferred positions" in industry to whites. But on the mainland Hawaiians shared in the disastrous spread of color consciousness that was embracing yellow and brown immigrants alike. Shortly before the Boxer Rebellion (1900), when America was "holding China accountable, in the highest degree, for the protection of American life and property in the Orient," the U.S. Congress was progressing "from vinegar to vitriol" in anti-Chinese legislation. Congress denied bail to Chinese in habeas corpus cases, refused to allow Chinese in America to bring their alien wives into the U.S., finally forbade all immigration and naturalization of Chinese. "It is," says McWilliams, ". . . almost incredible that we have a single friend in China today."

The same story, varying in detail but always with the common denominator of race prejudice and sectional pressures, is told by McWilliams in chapters on Filipinos, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Hindus, Japanese, Koreans. The facts, he is careful to explain, are not only morally shocking, but invidious from a practical point of view. "The South has received only about 6.3% of [war] contracts" largely because its industry will not make proper use of Negro labor. The huge expense required for separate schools, waiting rooms, toilets, schoolbooks, even stepping-boxes for getting on and off trains, McWilliams calls an economic scandal in our industrialized lives.

Still graver, says McWilliams, is the effect of color discrimination on U.S. friends and allies in Asia, the Pacific, South America. "It is unthinkable," said the Manila *Times* in 1930, protesting a proposed exclusion bill, "that the American flag should fly over the Philippines while the citizens who look to it for defense and support are barred from entering the United States." McWilliams thinks that "there are many evidences of a growing sense of solidarity between American Negroes and the peoples of India." Says McWilliams: the Good Neighbor policy can hardly be taken seriously by South Americans resentful of North American race discrimination. And finally, the U.S. attitude on discrimination becomes "a fulcrum on which the Axis propaganda levers can be placed to exert pressures in multiple directions."

The Solution. McWilliams' solution is as simple and drastic as a bog-oak shillelagh, as controversial as a Donnybrook Fair. "The nation now possesses," he says, ". . . the will and the physical unity and the power to achieve what it should have achieved 50 years ago—total democracy in the United States." Congress must enact a "new Federal civil-rights statute." It must outlaw the poll tax in Federal elections and "Jim Crowism on all types of interstate carriers." It must pass a Federal anti-lynching statute." To implement this policy, it must use the bludgeon of hard cash. All Government grants to states and communities, both for war and postwar industries, housing developments, down to "every concern from which the Government purchases so much as a lead pencil," must be made on the "condition of non-discrimination." The teeth in the contract: "In default of compliance, the license can be revoked."

As for the Japanese now in Government custody, we must realize, says McWilliams, that by rooting them out of "Little Tokyos" in three states we have helped to break the influence of the *Issei* (first generation) on the *Nisei* (second generation). McWilliams agrees with Milton Eisenhower (former director of the War Relocation Authority) that "from 80% to 85% of the *Nisei* are loyal to the United States." They must be treated accordingly.

In regard to all colored immigrants, "every vestige of racism should be removed from . . . our naturalization and immigration policies." All Orientals living in the U.S. should be made eligible for naturalization; immigration quotas should be set up for all nationalities "on a basis of absolute equality." The issue must be seen as a worldwide one, for our problem of colored minorities "is merely a reproduction on a miniature scale of a set of similar problems which will be faced by whatever federation of powers . . . emerges from this war. . . . These problems are not 'solved' merely by the declaration that 'imperialism' must be banished from the postwar world. By taking the initiative here, we might be in a position to assert real world leadership in relation to these same problems after the war. On the other hand, by continuing an ostrichlike, do-nothing policy at home, we are certainly inviting another Versailles."

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Diseases of Poverty

TRAIL TO LIGHT, *by R. P. Parsons. Bobbs-Merrill. $3.*

"IF YOU should transverse the hills of Brianza and Canavese, you would most likely meet some pitiable wrecks of humanity, with eyes fixed and glassy, with pale and sallow faces and arms as wasted and scarred as by a burn or large wound. You would see them advancing with trembling head and staggering gait . . . now falling on one side, now getting up . . . now again falling, uttering a senseless laugh or sob, which pierces the heart—such are the pellagrins." Thus wrote the Italian savant Lombroso in 1892. And this was the picture of our rural South of 1900-15. The plague of the sore mouth

MAY 24 1943
JUL 27 1943
JUL 27 1943

fourteen other men gave it to them in the so-called "filth parties." The author has spared none of the sordid details—the stools, the scales, and urine of the afflicted were mixed with dough and eaten by the volunteers. Blood of the pellagrins was injected into the bodies of these "fifteen men and a housewife" as Goldberger's official reports refer to the case, in order to prove that the disease was not caused by germs, but due only to a deficiency in protein diet. Like the Negro genius, George Washington Carver, Dr. Goldberger felt that his work would mean little unless it was brought home to the poor of the South. He traveled extensively through the red clay of the Carolinas and the cotton fields of the southern states, bringing the message of a proper balanced diet to avoid pellagra. His great contribution of P-P (pellagra preventive) led to the discovery and isolation of Vitamin G, named in his honor. The army has incorporated these dietary studies into their rations and we may rest assured that none of our soldiers will be brought down by the "red plague."

But this biography is more than a twice-told tale. There are excellent chapters on other wound stripes suffered by Goldberger as a representative of the US Public Health Service. The good doctor almost took the count in his study and contraction of yellow fever. His paper of 1907, "The Etiology, Symptoms, and Diagnosis of Yellow Fever," remains a classic to this day. He contracted breakbone fever or dengue in Texas and made notes on his symptoms and reactions while lying in bed. His fine study of typhus emphasizes the conclusion that "fundamentally sanitation and health are economic problems and in proportion as the economic condition of the masses has improved, this notorious filth disease has decreased or disappeared. In localities where it still prevails its further reduction waits on a further improvement in, or an extension of, the improved economic status of those affected." JUL 27 1943

Much of Dr. Parsons' book is not pleasant reading. It will take you into an atmosphere of iodoform, gangrene, phenol, pus, and many malodorous smells. The sweat, blood, and tears of the working medico are in this book. You will find a real scientist, a social scientist, who despite his myopia on "cultural" problems knew that only "the improvement in basic economic conditions can be expected to heal the festering ulcers of our people."

JAY JERRY KNIGHT.

New Republic
New York. N. Y

The Promised Land

The White Face, by Carl Ruthven Offord. New York: Robert M. McBride and Company. 317 pages. $2.75.

FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, Harlem has been widely publicized as the world's most populous Negro community. At times it has been glamorized as a vast night club with gay and bizarre entertainment provided by the dancing feet and singing hearts of its carefree citizens. Often it has been smeared as an iniquitous dive wherein muggers and other anti-social creatures are spawned. Occasionally, it has been hailed as the promised land for aspiring black folk. Seldom, however, has it been depicted as an American community differing from other American communities chiefly because of the restricted opportunities afforded its people for economic security, social welfare and cultural advancement.

MAY 31 1943

In this first novel by a young Negro author, the attempt is made to portray the warping influence of these limitations upon the lives of Chris and Nella Wood, refugees from a Georgia peonage farm. Making their way to Harlem, the couple expect to gain freedom and security. They find the Negro community mired deep in the depression with security for none, and soon learn that such freedom as Harlem enjoys is not enough. Sought by the police of Georgia on a false charge of murder, Chris lives in terror, not daring to go abroad before nightfall. The responsibility for earning boxer. Behind the scenes sinister, fascist-minded figures, Negro and white, manipulate the soapboxer and his following with a view to spreading anti-Semitism and creating disunity. Blinded by his hate of white folk, Chris becomes embroiled in this lunatic movement from which Nella vainly attempts to save him. Fear and frustration drive him inevitably to his tragic fate.

It is a sordid story that Mr. Offord relates—one of abject poverty, petty racketeering and wanton violence—a dreary story of the social and political underworld of Harlem in conflict with progressive elements in the community which, by comparison, seem puny and ineffective.

"The White Face" endeavors to depict this conflict and to dramatize the impact of urbanization upon a rural Southern Negro couple. But somehow the novel doesn't quite come off. The situations seem strained and the characters unreal. Chris and his underworld associates all bluster in the unconvincing manner of actors overplaying their parts. As unlovable as Bigger Thomas, and motivated by similar fears, Chris lacks the human and dynamic qualities which make the protagonist of Richard Wright's "Native Son" a memorable character.

Color there is aplenty in Harlem. And joy and pathos, beauty and ugliness, triumph and defeat, indifference and revolt, hope and frustration. Yet out of this melange, there has come no novel of enduring quality, no story which has probed deep into the social and economic conditions and given a representative picture of the community—nothing to compare in vividness, scope and understanding with James T. Farrell's portrayal of Irish-American life in his "Studs Lonigan" trilogy. Mr. Offord has not succeeded, naturally, where more experienced and talented writers have failed.

HENRY LEE MOON

Democratic Principles

Washington Post Washington, D. C.

By Coleman Rosenberger

"A TIME TO ACT," a collection of the addresses of Archibald MacLeish delivered between November, 1940 and June, 1942, is an able and vigorous statement of the democratic principles in the name of which this Nation is waging war. Carey McWilliams' "Brothers Under the Skin" is a documented account of the fashion in which the Nation, in relation to its racial minorities, has practiced less than the democracy which it professes. "The Fighting South" by John Temple Graves illuminates the deeply embedded attitudes of mind, present even among men of good will, which render the long and continuing struggle for democracy doubly difficult.

JUL 4 1943

The enemy within our borders is named by Mr. MacLeish: "It is a malodorous and contemptible company—a company bound together not by love of anything but by hatred of many things—a company having only this in common: that it loves this country and this country's peoples less than it loves its private hatreds and its private spleen. These and such as these are the enemies in this battle. But they are the enemies not of the Government of the United States, not of the present Administration, not of any officer of the Administration but of the people themselves."

The private hatreds and the private spleens which injure all the people, of which Mr. MacLeish speaks, have been most tragically directed against the Nation's colored racial minorities. These now number some 17 million in the continental United States. By far the largest group, accounting almost for one person in every 10 of our whole population, are the 13 million Negro citizens. But, as becomes clear in Mr. McWilliams' examination, of compelling importance also are the other groups: the 77,000 Chinese, 45,000 Filipinos, 360,000 American Indians, 125,000 Japanese, and the 3½ million Mexicans.

JUL 4 1943

To the extent that these minorities are the objects of private hates and exploitation, to the extent that they are denied the protection of our democracy and participation in it, so far does our democracy fail. But that failure is of more than symbolic significance. The overwhelming majority of our anti-Axis allies and potential allies, as Mr. McWilliams points out, belong to the colored races. Of the 525 million inhabitants of the British Empire, 455 million are colored—and we have seen that the price of traditional British colonial policy is that most of these colonial peoples have maintained a passive attitude to the war. In the Western Hemisphere, if the population were divided into the general classifications of "white" and "colored" the balance would probably tip in favor of the latter. Among all of these peoples, the Fascist propagandists make capital of the discrepancies between our democratic principles and practices. But Dr. Goebbels' voice is not so persuasive as our own actions.

Equally tragic, however, is the refusal of men like Mr. Graves to accept responsibility or even to face the problems, while insisting that the solutions must be left to them. Writing, for example, of the Mississippi lynching a few months ago of two 14-year-old Negro boys, Mr. Graves is anxious to fix responsibility anywhere but where it belongs. Gene Talmage was marching on, he writes, ". . . by courtesy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Northern Negro press, the politicians and sentimentalists in high places at Washington, and the devoted but cross-eyed humanitarians."

JUL 4 1943

"A TIME TO ACT," by Archibald MacLeish. (Houghton, Mifflin, $2.50.)

"BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN," by Carey McWilliams. (Little, Brown, $3.)

"The FIGHTING SOUTH," by John Temple Graves. (Putnam's, $2.75.)

Jive chatter originally was created by musicians as a means of communicating among themselves while in the presence of strangers.

Cab Calloway Publishing A Jive Book

First to popularize jive talk when he published his "Hepster's Cat-O-Logue" in 1938, Calloway thinks that the time is ripe for a new and revised edition which will contain the many hundreds of new expressions which have been coined.

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 5—De- In his brief works, Smith dissigned and written primarily to cusses the past, present and fuhelp mankind, whom he believes ture of the race and expresses the needs added spiritual guidance, is view that the Great Almighty will provide a rightful place in His theatre, Clifford W. Smith's interesting pamphlet "Bel Wise as the Serpent." The author, who has traveled throughout the world, attended school in San Domingo and Haiti. He has lived in California for the past three years. Smith gotten man.

Writes Pamphlet On Race and Religion

NEW YORK—While currently appearing at the New York Strand

JUN 26 1943

8-1943

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

A NEW NEGRO NOVEL

One catches the beauty of a [illegible] burning on the altar in this story of a soul that [illegible] It was not an easy road; the discouragements and heartaches are not alone the author's, they are common to most Negroes. "Dark Symphony" (Sheed & Ward, New York, $2.50) is an autobiography of Elizabeth Laura Adams, who proves that success is worth the struggle. It is a story of a little girl's love of marching, of her severe lessons in discipline, how she first became color-conscious! There is an amusing account of her efforts to impress schoolmates with her fine background by telling them that her grandfather was once captain of a big ship; only to suffer humiliation when she learned he had only been a cabin-steward. Again, Miss Adams was punished for bringing companions home to prove to them that colored people weren't raggedy and didn't live in shacks; by exhibiting her mother's silverware, china and other finery. But it is tragic too, that a child reared amidst culture and refinement must suffer humiliation because of color. It is sad when she describes how her acts of gentleness and sweetness met with rebuff in private homes when the depression forced her to this kind of work. Though ill-health ended a musical career the inactivity and solitude during her youth probably strengthened her spiritual nature. Her keen imagination, helped too in compensating for the musical loss since she turned to poetry and playwriting. In turning to the Catholic faith, the author is not blind to the discrimination often practiced in that church, but believed racial prejudice can be overcome by intensive study. One feels that the greatest joy in Elizabeth Adams' life has been religion; and her reasons for being dissatisfied with other beliefs are perhaps felt by many. Here is a book by, and for the Negro, who by reason of tribal and other "blood admixtures" during slavery represents a new race in the world . . . The New Negro.

JESSIE M. COX
New York, N. Y.

A POPULAR PLAY

Your first experience reading a play will perhaps surprise you. All of your literary tools are going to be put to work. You can't "rare back" and permit the author to reveal each peal of thunder, each cry of distress from heroine to hero as you might have, had you been reading fiction. Contrarily, each setting is scantily described, the characters placed and you—every faculty alert—become your own director. You must see and feel as the author meant his characters to, lead almost entirely by the characters' conversations—or so it was in "Without Love" by Philip Barry (Coward-McCann, New York, $2.00).

Philip Barry has written several successful plays; the best known are doubtless "The Animal Kingdom" and "The Philadelphia Story." "Without Love" is a three-act comedy, its setting and characters modern, vivid and varied. It is good to read conversation that isn't just on-the-surface-funny, but so truly wit that it is positively flattering to "get the point" of those witticisms. There are only 11 characters, entirely individual. All action takes place in a Washington drawing room whose changing attire and arrangements reflect the changes of moods of its mistress during the course of two years.

A widow, young, lovely, living in memory of her perfect marriage, she meets a brilliant young man whose own former love affairs have left messy tastes in his mouth. They agree on most things; but especially on their reasons for not ever marrying. But the attraction is there—attraction of fertile minds, lively wits, equal social status and ye olde debbil sex. They succumb—almost. Too smart to be trapped, too modern to be hurt again, they have a marriage of convenience — just pals, y'know. Does it work? With zany as well as brainy friends and involved situations working against them, the plan dissolves, but beautifully. Competely, most satisfactorily entertaining!

EDWINA STREETER DIXON
Chicago, Ill.

VICTIM OF HYSTERIA

I sometimes wonder if there will ever be an end to the stories about those people who were closely or remotely connected with the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Here is another, concerning the arrest, trial and conviction of a woman Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, "The Case For Mrs. Surratt," by Helen Jones Campbell (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York). The persistence and utter lack of justice used by the members of the prosecution to bring any kind of a conviction that would appear well done to the general public and at the same time strengthen the Radical Republican Party, then in power, seems preposterous. However, the narration contains an authenticity that cannot be denied.

A pathetic picture of Mrs. Surrat is shown on almost every page of the book, her confinement in the Old Capitol Prison, the chains that were fastened to her legs, her removal to the Arsenal, the agony of her days in the courtroom.

She declared her innocence until the day she was hanged. Although the witnesses against her were proved by her young attorneys, Clampitt and Aiken, to be guilty of perjury, the Military Commission that heard her case was determined that she be convicted.

Her arrest had come about because her son, John Surratt, was a friend of Wilkes Booth, and the actor had frequented her house in Washington during the winter before Lincoln was assassinated. There, unknown to the mother, her son and Booth had discussed a plan to kidnap and hold the President in the hope that the South could demand terms off the North for his release. Numbers of other men, supposed to be connected with the plot, had been visitors to the Surratt home and Mary Surratt had let them come unaware of their mission.

Anna Surratt, daughter of the family, devoted to her mother, stays with her to the very end. Both are devoted Catholics, but even the priests can do nothing for her mother.

Significantly, the author points out that now, on the sight of Old Capitol is the new Supreme Court building and above the great doorway are the words, "Equal Justice Under The Law."

CONSTANCE C. NICHOLS
Trenton, N. J.

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

Livingstone College Founder

Bishop William J. Walls has given to the reading public an inspiring story of [illegible] Joseph Charles Price (Christopher Publishing House, Boston, $3.00), co-founder of Livingstone college and celebrated author. As a hobby, for 25 years, Bishop Walls has collected pertinent data on this great Christian, and after repeated requests for his biography, Dr. Walls, a Livingstone graduate, undertook the work.

Factually, it is a textbook, covering every detail of Dr. Price's life from his humble birth in North Carolina through his student and teaching days at Shaw and Lincoln universities, and his oratorical and financial triumph in Great Britain.

Joseph Charles Price was born in Elizabeth City, N. C., in 1854, the son of a free mother and a slave father. At the age of nine, his mother moved to New Bern, N. C., on free soil, where her son would have an opportunity for schooling. From that time on, Joseph Charles Price lived a vigorous and full life.

Though his years here were short, his achievements were numerous. In his early youth, he was outstanding as a singer; later as a minister and orator, and while still in his early twenties, he was recognized by both races all over the country, as a natural leader of men. He was a lover of all humanity and a perfect husband.

Notable among his achievements was his outstanding success at the Ecumenial Methodist Council in England in 1881, where he was sent as a delegate. He astounded his audiences with the powerful delivery of his messages. When the council was over, Dr. Price remained abroad a year, in the interest of a Methodist college. He was successful in averaging $200 weekly, which funds secured the establishment of John Wesley institute, later called Livingstone college.

In every sense of the word, Dr. Price was, as the author states, 'a man who in his day was the embodiment of the possibilities of the great black race."

LILLIAN C. IRBY.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Teaching the Child to Read

Teaching reading in the modern school is a far cry from that of the "good old days." "The modern school is a reading school." Therefore, reading is no longer thought of as an end in itself, but as a tool with which boys and girls may broaden and enrich their experiences in the many different subject matter fields.. The average classroom teacher, however, finds herself facing many harassing problems in attempting to plan and carry out the type of reading program that would be acceptable to present-day reading authorities.

Guy L. and Eva Bond kept in mind the problems of the classroom teacher in writing their book, "Teaching the Child to Read" (Macmillan company, New York, $3, 356 pages), and elementary teachers everywhere will hail it with great delight. The authors, well known authorities in the field of reading, have here outlined in simple language that all may read, a definite, precise and workable reading program and classroom procedures in getting the child ready to read, initial instruction in book reading; developing skills; teaching reading in the content subjects; developing interests and tastes; appraising capabilities, etc. The materials are of a preventive nature.

Following each chapter is a well selected bibliography and at the end of the book is a handy descriptive list of standardized reading tests for elementary school pupils.

The book is hereby highly recommended.

EVELYN WIGGINS SHARPE.
DeLand, Fla.

"RACE AND CRIME" by Willem Adriaan Bonger. Translated by Margaret M. Hordyk, pp. 11 to 130 (Columbia University Press, $1.50.)

This masterly study of crime among peoples, by Willem Bonger, leading criminologist of the Netherlands, comes as another nail in the coffin of the racialists, whether they be in Europe or America because just as there are those with a superiority complex in America who try to prove that whites are superior to blacks; so in Europe, there are those who hold that certain whites are superior to other whites.

For instance, the Nordics generally believe themselves superior to the Finns and Lapps; the Walloons over the Flemish; the Alpine over the Mediterranean folk, and the Germans over all the other whites, including the English and the Americans. Bonger takes the statistics of the different countries and proves most competently that people regardless of race or religion, are inherently criminal, and that certain crimes are only environmental. For instance, he shows in Germany that in certain offenses, the Aryan exceeded the Jew as in murder, rape, theft and felonious assault, while the Jew, being more inclined to commerce, exceeded [illegible] forgery and fraud, but that both Aryans and Jews committed all the crimes with the Jew having the small general percentage.

Chapter III is devoted to Negro criminality in the United States. He shows from the U.S. census of 1910 that Negroes had a higher rate of crime but that they also had nearly a three to one chance of being convicted in the courts than whites. "Crimes committed by Negroes," he explains, "are more frequently prosecuted than those committed by whites. Negroes are less often in a position to secure a good lawyer and they are more promptly sentenced to prison."

All in all this is a very weighty, reliable and readable work on the comparative criminality of peoples.

J. A. ROGERS.
New York City.

New 'Brown America' by President Of Julius Rosenwald Fund Off Press

Call
Kansas City Mo

CHICAGO. — (ANP)—"Brown America," by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald fund, issued Friday by the Viking press, New York city. It is a newly written statement based to some extent on material used by the same author in "Brown Americans." The book has been a standard work on Negroes since it was published in 1931.

Commenting on the recent progress of Negroes, Mr. Embree says:

"Nearly 50,000 Negroes are in college and universities today, three times as many as when I wrote 12 years ago. During the past six years, 24,000 Negroes have been graduated from college more than in days to over 90 per cent—well above the literacy of the whole of the previous 50 years. In the history of mankind, in many generations it has jumped from the 5 per cent of slavery to a high place. And its education has gone far beyond the rudiments. In many phases of modern civilization. It is now building swiftly on the slowly laid foundations of the earlier decades of freedom.

"The growth of this race since the close of slavery is one of the bright episodes in the history of mankind. In many phases of modern civilization. It is now building swiftly on the slowly laid foundations of the earlier decades of freedom.

"The growth of this race since the close of slavery is one of the bright episodes in the history of mankind. In many phases of modern civilization. It is now building swiftly on the slowly laid foundations of the earlier decades of freedom.

"The Negro death rate, while still higher than it need be with modern medicine and sanitation, has been cut in half during the past 50 years and now compares favorably with the rates in such countries as France or Italy.

"Negroes have become a solid part of the labor movement. Their union enrollment is five times that of 12 years ago. While still underemployed and kept for the most part in the lower posts, their surge into jobs of all sorts during the war emergency has given them new economic footholds, some of which they will certainly keep.

"Migrations have brought one-fourth of the race to the north and west where they have fuller rights and freer opportunities. And this movement, still in full flow, will continue to distribute them more equitably throughout the whole country.

"Their votes in their new homes give them a balance of power in many important states and thus a strong influence in the policies of the nation. Their opinions and demands are now strongly voiced in national associations and in over two hundred of their own newspapers.

"While the masses in the south still know few of the boons of democracy, the higher standing of the three million northern Negroes is steadily changing attitudes tworad the race as a whole.

The rise of the Brown Americans is a part of the general upsurge of colored peoples the world over. We do not yet see the shift that is taking place. A 'cultural lag' runs throughout all human history, a delay between changes and our adaptation to them.

"That lag is conspicous and may become tragic in the attitudes that the white nations still hold toward the colored peoples. If we persist in our arrogant attempt to rule and exploit all darker groups, they will rise up in a world rebellion that may wipe out white civilization.

"Diverse peoples must learn to live together happily and effectively in this rapidly shrinking world. This means the granting of equitable opportunities; a free exchange of goods and of ideas; the right of diverse peoples to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

VISION OF A NEW WORLD

Of all the New Dealers who have garnered the spotlight since 1932, only Vice-President Henry A. Wallace remains authoritative and universally respected. In his book "The Century of the Common Man" (Reynal & Hitchcock, $1.50), he gives us the New Deal vision of the world to come when the arms are stacked the battleships taken to port and the tanks shrouded with tarpaulin. This is a blueprint of the world of the future a beacon of hope for a war-torn world a panorama of a future Utopia toward which men have been striving since the dawn of creation. Here in a slim volume are his speeches and writings culled from the plethora of his public expressions since the New Deal came to office, but particularly during the past year when our thoughts have been fixed on the post-war world.

One may get something of the comprehensiveness of the slender book from some of the chapter headings: "Our Second Chance," "What We Have Learned," "The Price of Free World Victory," "Inter-American Banking," "The Rubber Question," "Russia," "World Organization," "Trade Agreements," "The National Debt," "Horatio Alger Is Not Dead," "Business Measures," "The New Isolationism," "Three Philosophies," "Work, Peace and Health," and "George—a Commencement Address." From these chapters you can not only obtain a picture of the world planned by the New Deal but also something of the problems confronting us.

If you want to understand what is going on and what is planned for the world of tomorrow, this is the book to read and ponder. You may not agree with the Vice-President, but you have to respect his knowledge and his sincerity. Certainly there are few more inspiring books in simple language for those who yearn for a better world.

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OTTLEY'S OPUS

Roi Ottley is a bright New York reporter who has spent several years of his life studying the habits, thoughts, fads and foibles of the colored brethren in Harlem and elsewhere. His findings appear in the Life-in-America prize book, "New World A-Comin'" (Houghton, Mifflin $3) about which the literary world is presently agog. His opus is subtitled "Inside Black America" and it is well worth owning and reading. Already it has zoomed past the 30,000-mark in sales, and it certainly warrants such popularity. If you have not bought your copy you should do so at once.

After an inadequate start in which there seems to be a genuflection to the white folks, Ottley launches into an historical resume of the Negro in New York which is most revealing. It is by no means complete and there are serious omissions, but it gives a valuable background necessary, to an understanding and appreciation of what follows, even if it lacks something in depth. Indeed, there is much here of the superficiality of journalism, as there is in the chapters that follow, but there is so much more that is accurate that one is disposed to overlook the faults.

WIT AND HUMOR

It is easily and breezily written and (thank God) is invested with wit and humor. His portraits of notable Harlemites, while not too happily chosen and not always completely informed, are well written and sometimes captivating, as in the case of Rev. Adam C. Powell. Singularly enough Mr. Ottley ignores completely (with the exception of Pig-Foot Annie) almost all of the important business and religious leaders of Harlem, of whom there have been many, for example Watt Terry and A. A. Austin, to say nothing of John E. Nail, who tried to provide places for Negroes to live. Also there is nothing about the Negro's ventures in co-operative housing and retailing..

There is, however, much stress on the froth of things and disproportionate space is given to characters relatively insignificant in the stream of Harlem life. But this is perhaps excusable since Mr. Ottley is more attracted by the admitted color of Harlem life than more fundamental aspects. There are careless statements of fact which will probably be corrected in subsequent editions. We are told about the Elks' $300,000 club house but nothing about the Odd Fellows' $300,000 apartment house. We are told that Garvey's Negro World accepted no skin-whitening advertisements when they were one of the prominent features of the paper. The UNIA is credited with a membership of six million when actually it did not reach 60,000, as court records will show. We are told that 50,000 Garveyites marched in Harlem when observers of the parade can remember no such turnout. He says the UNIA's ship "Booker T. Washington" was "never seen again" after arriving at a Caribbean port whereas it returned to the USA. He repeats the old "hot-bed" canard while the statements that "Without exception the houses were filthy and vermin-infested" and "coal grates provided the only heat" are wandering considerably from the facts. Housing in Harlem is and has been bad enough without exaggerating.

WELL WRITTEN

One could go on but the impression might be given that this is not an extremely interesting and well-written book—and that is the last impression this reviewer would like to give. Roi Ottley is a fine writer. While there are many superficialities ballooned to importance, there is also good, solid, informative writing. After all this is not a historical treatise but an extremely good panorama of a significant community, the capital of the Afro-American world. Ottley has, all in all, done a splendid job which justifies the opinion of his work expressed by this reviewer years ago when he was working for the Amsterdam News.

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER.

8-1943

ROGERS SAYS:

Present Day Writers Eighty Years Behind in Boldness of Spirit

BY J. A. ROGERS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
DEC 11 1943

NEW BOOKS continue to appear on the race question, but I regret to say that I have found them, in the whole, just so many more to be added to the shelf. They contain nothing new, nothing that has not perhaps been said better many times before. Yet, what material is lying dormant for a mighty book—a book that will shake this nation as Victor Hugo's Les Miserables did the France of his day.

As for outspokenness, I find the writers of today, on the whole, behind Civil War writers and speakers, like Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Theodore Tilton, David Goodman Croly, and Bishop Gilbert Haven, all white. These men wrote 80 years or more ago, but instead of being behind those of today, they're 80 years ahead of them in boldness of spirit.

Mr. Rogers

The reason, as I see it, is that the above men had such a deep conviction of what they felt to be right that they were blinded to everything else. They took the bit in their teeth and they showed no compromise.

The white minister who would dare to tell his congregation what Bishop Haven used to tell his, probably does not exist today. By the way, Haven once refused to pastor a rich church in the South because Negroes would not be admitted on equality with whites.

WHITE WRITERS on the race question today, are tamed down for two principal reasons. First, they try to avoid offending both friend and foe, which, of course, is death to independent writing. A writer, while always preserving courtesy and kindliness, should never be afraid to say what he feels. When I started writing my first book, "From Superman to Man," I discovered there were so many things I was not supposed to say that I found myself against a blank wall, as it were. I had only two alternatives: either to write a tame book, or to use my axe on the old idols and conventions.

DEC 11 1943

TIME HAS COME TO TELL THE TRUTH

Second, the author has to write with the idea of getting his book accepted by the publisher. The color question is highly explosive and he must insulate. He must be diplomatic. The only ones who really speak out are the foes of Negroes in Congress, or in state politics. The publisher, on his part, has his eye to the market, to his investment. Therefore, whatever of the truth is in the book must be toned down or sugar-coated. In short, it is a vicious circle. The really honest man is hamstrung at the start.

THE ONLY CURE for a chronic ill as the race question, is radical treatment. The time has come to tell the truth no matter whom it hurts. Sometimes you've got to make people angry or so shock them that they can never settle back in the old rut. That method worked with me and though it was painful at the time, I later discovered that those who shook me out of my old beliefs and complacencies were my best friends, though I then regarded them as enemies. Anyone who helps you to clear out of the attic of your brain, cherished but useless rubbish, is your friend. Of course, there are always those morons whose brains have become like concrete and cannot be changed. The intelligent man will get rid of his waste ideas as his body gets rid of waste matter. He will forever be building new and ever newer mansions for his soul.

DEC 11 1943

NEGRO WRITERS SUBSIDIZED

As for the Negro writers, most of them are tamed too. They hedge almost as much as the whites and for an added reason: Nearly every one of them has been subsidized. I was recently collecting data on scholarships and other gifts and awards given to Negro writers by white philanthropists or white foundations and I was simply amazed to see the extent to which it had gone. I should say it was about 90 per cent or more of the better known Negro writers.

NOW I MAINTAIN that such gifts are bound to have their influence. There is an old saying: "You cannot put your foot under a man's dinner table and then tell him what you really think of him." If accepting gifts is bad for a politician, it is even more fatal for a writer. Besides, having got one gift, you'll decide to remain a good boy so you'll get another. In any case, were it myself, that is what I feel I would do. In fact, accepting any kind of favor, even sometimes from your best friend, destroys some of your independence. You're afraid that you might say or do something that will make him think you an ingrate.

Mountains of matter have been written on this race question. I have been going through it for more than 40 years. Now I feel the sole reason for writing any more on it is to say what is not supposed to be said. Most of the writers have been following one another around like the horses on the merry-go-round at Coney Island. How I long to see one of those writers break away, even if he upsets the complacent passengers!

DEC 11 1943

Note to New Yorkers: The African Academy of Arts and Research will stage its African dances at Carnegie Hall on the evening of December 13. Their dancers are exceptionally good and original and deserve support.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill

By BEN BURNS

DEC 18 1943

Skin Trouble

"THE DOVE FLIES SOUTH" by James A. Hyland. Bruce Pub. Co., Milwaukee, $2.50.

JAMES HYLAND, a Catholic cleric, has written the Fantasia of the race question. He has toyed with a composite Dixie Christian of the Rankin ilk, turned his lily-white skin black and then turned him loose to face all the sadist cruelty of the Jim Crow country.

It is a bright, elegant idea Hyland has in "The Dove Flies South" but unfortunately he is not skilled enough a novelist to really do a convincing job. Then again he has tacked together a makeshift conversion finale which plumps the Catholic view on the Negro problem completely out of line with the rest of the book. Basically Hyland has attempted to tell too much in too little space and with too little writing ability.

But notwithstanding its continual letdowns and awkward style at times, "The Dove Flies South" remains a jolly pastime, always good for a laugh. The author has delved into the science of skin pigment and has borrowed profusely from recent newspaper announcements of chemical discoveries which will turn skin white.

DEC 18 1943

Hyland creates a fiendful, tricky professor with a bent for practical joking. Turned loose in the South, he creates some queer color combinations, especially in the person of George Woodward, who is a radio spieler with a screwball plan for isolating all Negroes on reservations much after the Indian style.

When Woodward suddenly is changed overnight into a Negro, is almost lynched for murdering himself, and then faces all the humiliation that Negroes in America confront every day, he has a quick change of heart. Some of the situations he gets into lend themselves to genuine comedy and Hyland is quick to capitalize. He has written a farce in essence but did not play up this angle enough to make a really enjoyable work.

* * *

Race Rumors

"RACE AND RUMORS OF RACE" by Howard W. Odum. University of North Carolina Press. $2.

IN THE LEXICON of Axis war armament, one of the most potent weapons has always been rumors. From fantastic stories about the burning of the Reichstag to the even more imaginative tales about the Eleanor clubs, the Axis propaganda bosses have consistently done a good job in splitting and dividing their foes.

DEC 18 1943

Prof. Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina has done a remarkable job in collecting and dissecting the Axis fables circulated in the Dixie theatre of rumor warfare. The South has always been a verdant field for rumor, especially in times of stress, and this war has produced a sensational crop regarding the tense racial situation. Professor Odum has been thorough in chronicling these tales ranging from the ice pick to the pro-Japanese stories.

But there would be no purpose in just a collection of this sort unless some analysis and forthright suggestions for amelioration were forthcoming. Odum labors mightily in this direction but because he is at heart both a Southerner and a too-objective scholar he labors in vain.

His approach is of the speculative "on-the-one-hand-and-on-the-other-hand" variety. He is asking questions more than answering them. While there is much merit in the interrogation attitude, it seems to this reviewer that the time for questions is long past. The war and onrushing time have made action imperative on the agenda of American life. The race problem is too acute, too immediate to remain any longer in the realm of random groping.

DEC 18 1943

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill

By BEN BURNS

African Politician

"JAN SMUTS" By F. S. Crafford. Doubleday, Doran & Co., N.Y. $3.50.

OF ALL the black-hearted scoundrels in the international scene in the past century, "Field Marshal The Right Honorable" Jan Christian Smuts comes pretty close to being one of the most consistent villains in the story of modern imperialism.

DEC 18 1943

Smuts as No. 1 man in South Africa and brain trust for the colonial pattern of Africa boasts a black record as an opportunist politician who is among the ranking labor and race baiters of the age. Today—more than 70 years old—he is still plotting new schemes to keep black men of Africa in chains after this war for the Four Freedoms is over.

For all his literary embellishments, his South African biographer, F. S. Crafford, has tough sledding trying to bleach the dark deeds of Smuts into worthy work for the people. The story of Smuts as an colonial oppressor, as a politician charlatan, as a Tory henchman in world diplomacy is here.

Crafford's book is a distorted picture intended to glamorize Smuts as a hero. It glosses over the sordid Smuts record on the native question with only slight details on the virtual slavery of the Bantu population in the South Africa. Crafford cannot but mention the infamous massacre of 300 natives in 1931 because they trespassed on government land.

Crafford states in a sentence Smuts' attitude: "Towards the colored races in South Africa his attitude to this day remains hard, uncompromising and devoid of sentiment." Devoid of justice and decency, too.

People's Poll

DEC 11 1943

"ASSIGNMENT: U. S. A." By Selden Menefee. Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc., N.Y. $3.

AS AN up-to-date current events collector, Selden Menefee is perhaps among the best. His regular pieces in the Nation and Washington Post have proved him to be a competent pulse taker of public opinion.

In his new repertorial work, "Assignment: U.S.A.," written after a 15,000-mile swing around the country, Menefee tells the total results of his private poll. Considering the too-many mitigating circumstances i.e., the Bourbon press, surplus of flag-waving demagogues, race and labor baiting the people as a whole have much of which to be proud.

Menefee reports the "common sense of the common man," so widely popularized by Vice President Wallace, far ahead of his government in the world vista. The American people have begun to crack the sham Chinese walls of regionalism and isolationism they built around the fake "America First" thesis and have learned that as the world goes, so goes America.

"The weakest point in our domestic battlefront is the racial issue," is the story of one Marine outfit how the Marines operate, there is probably no better work than the current novel, "Retreat, Hell." This ably less acquainted with the Ma- y other outfit.

DEC 18 1943

ALL the military organizations in the U.S., Negroes are probrines have been broken and today some are members of this finally been broken 8000 Negroes are ghest, bravest branch toughest, roughest, military services.

"RETREAT, HELL!" by William Martin Camp. D. Appleton-Century Co. $3.

Meet The Marines

For a realistic glimpse of exactly that our cause is just, it is a first-ranking book in the library of warbooks.

SECOND THOUGHTS

Defender
Chicago, Ill

By S. I. HAYAKAWA

"Brown Americans"

TO ME, the most interesting section of Edwin R. Embree's excellent book, "Brown Americans," was the story of the author's grandfather, John G. Fee, whose name certainly ought to be honored in every Negro home in America.

The Rev. John G. Fee, brought up in a slave-owning Kentucky family, abhorred the term "abolitionist," which for him stood for all the dreadful "agitators" his family and friends were opposed to. But while studying at a theological seminary in Cincinnati, the conviction grew upon him that Christianity and slavery could not be reconciled.

S. I. Hayakawa

Nevertheless, he could not bear to think of himself as an "abolitionist." There was a terrific inner struggle. "Pressed by the new ideas and his growing conviction, he retired to a vacant lot where he often went to pray, and there wrestled with God and his problem all the night through. Toward morning, as conviction grew and the will of God grew clear, he shouted in agony, 'Lord, if needs be, make me an abolitionist!'"

A Dedicated Life

FROM THAT MOMENT on his troubles began—a whole lifetime of troubles. First of all there was trouble with his family, when he announced to his father, "I am convinced that human slavery is a sin against God and man, and I am resolved to preach this conviction in my native state." This announcement forever estranged him from his family.

Whenever John G. Fee went to preach his convictions, he got in further trouble. In Berea, Kentucky, he started a school for educating whites and Negroes together. Every time he got classes organized, slave-owners would raid the school and break it up. Fee nevertheless persisted, not only in trying to maintain his school, but also in preaching his gospel in all the surrounding countryside.

Embree writes of this stage in his grandfather's life, **"Twenty-two times John Fee was mobbed. On two occasions he was left for dead by his enemies."**

Often, however, the mobs could be quieted. After all, Fee commanded a certain amount of respect from them as a fellow-Kentuckian. Once a mob was taking him out to beat him up and run him out of the country when they were caught in a rainstorm. While waiting in a farmhouse for the rain to subside, Fee took the opportunity to conduct a Baptist gospel-reading and prayer service. Many members of the mob sneaked away quietly.

Some members of the mob, however, stayed with him to escort him to the edge of the county. They no longer felt like beating him up, so they politely told him to go away, and offered him a drink of whiskey. Thereupon Fee immediately started a new sermon on the evils of drink. The mobsters "rode off at full speed."

Years Of Hardship

FLEEING from mobs often separated from wife and children, hiding at night in cornfields, faced everywhere by hostility, not even safe from raiders in his own home, Fee persisted. He founded Berea college in 1858 and gave it the motto, "God has made of one blood all nations of men." (After Fee's death, the Kentucky legislature abolished the co-education of Negroes and whites, so that Berea is now a white college.)

One of his friends once said to him, "Fee, things look better than I thought they would. I am in heart as much a believer in the higher law as you. If we were in Massachusetts we could carry it out; but here in Kentucky we cannot."

Fee's answer is classical in its determination and simplicity, "The utterance of [illegible] truth should not be confined to [illegible]graphical limits."

Edwin R. Embree, who went to prep school in Berea at a time when whites and Negroes still studied there together, and who inherits from his family tradition the equalitarian fervor of his grandfather, tells many more interesting facts about John G. Fee, and hundreds more interesting facts about Negroes in America in his book. "Brown Americans" is highly recommended.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill

By BEN BURNS

Dream World

"ROAD TO PEACE AND FREEDOM" By Irving Brant. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. $2.

IF YOU'RE a dream book addict, Irving Brant has conjured up an imaginative vision of a world at peace that deserves a place on your "must" list.

This former Chicago Sun editorial writer has gazed deep and long into his crystal ball. What he has seen [illegible] the hope and ideals for the future [illegible] sounds like a kickback to the "good old days" of imperialist loot, other times borders on the Amazing-Story version of the world.

Brant tackeld his job with no holds barred. He looks at the world through rose-colored glasses for the most part and attempts to straight-jacket statesmen into a blueprint for the future. But while his intentions are strictly sincere, he is remarkably naive in his efforts to commit men and nations to straight and narrow paths in the world to come.

The facts of life are entirely to the contrary. Much as Brant and the American people would like to fashion now a people's world of tomorrow without too much anguish or struggle, it is obvious that the road ahead is long, torturous and devious.

Brant's biggest error is oversimplification of history in presenting a plan for permanent peace and universal democracy. Typical is his chapter on Russia, in which he contends that she does not and will not want a Communist Germany. Or his convenient approach to the problem of Asia and the upsurge for freedom there, in which he solves the toughest problems in neat stereotypes.

"Road To Peace And Freedom" glosses almost entirely over the economics of [illegible] and prefers to deal with [illegible]cy and war in a vacuum. There are some brilliant chapters on the State Department and our North Africa fiasco, but these remain detours on the road to peace.

Brant is an idealistic dreamer with a fickle naivete. As a dream, his book is another Aladdin's Lamp As fact, it is a nightmare.

Louisiana Poetry

"ZIBA" By James Pipes. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla. $2.50.

TOO MANY literary critics of late have accepted any "Cabin-In-The-Sky" formula treatments of the Negro as great literature per se. Choice of two disgusting, offensive Negro short stories as winners of the O'Henry Memorial Award this year is an example. "Ziba" is another.

William Rose Benet, who certainly should know better, has hailed this book of poems by James Pipes as the "find" of the season. Pipes is supposed to have collected his material at a general store in the swamplands of Louisiana where he listened to the conversations of sawmill workers and cane pickers.

Pipes, who is a white, has written a dialectician's delight. His characters are the conventional Negroes wielding knives, praying hard and wearing gaudy clothes. It is Octavis Roy Cohen stuff in poetry. There is one long piece in the entire work worthy of more than passing attention. That is the final "Freedom Is A Word," which displays some genuine emotion and feeling and gives the Negro credit for something more than ignorance and a good singing voice.

* * *

The Case Of Casey

"SUCH INTERESTING PEOPLE" by Robert Casey. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. $3.

ROBERT CASEY is a graduate of the Hollywood - Ben Hecht school of repetorial art which specialized in house-breaking, poker-playing and picture-snatching. It is an epic era that belongs in the history books now and Casey in his current "Such Interesting People" has chronicled at least one man's role in this newspaper epoch.

It is a jolly tale told in the Casey style that has delighted Chicago Daily News readers for a score of years. Not strictly a autobiography, the book is a rambling story of peoples and places, jokes and jests of the profession.

Casey's repertoire is delightful reading, a goodly portion of froth for a light evening of reading.

TO PUBLISH WHO'S WHO AGAIN

BROOKLYN (ANP) —Thomas Yenser, publisher of "Who's Who in Colored America," the popular encyclopedia on racial personalities and achievement, announced last week that he plans to bring out another edition which will be the seventh. Mr. Yenser, who is 76 years old, said that he had planned to retire but that the continuing demands forced him to remain active. He said that he is constantly discovering new facts about folk who have been included before as well as unusual achievement on the part of many people who had not come to the attention of the publisher previously. The result, he predicts, will be the most comprehensive edition yet published.

8-1943

ROGERS SAYS:

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
JUL 24 1943

Dr. Ashley Montague's New Book Explodes All Fallacies About Race Superiority

BY J. A. ROGERS

I HAVE READ over the years such a number of books and magazine articles on race, that, truth to tell, hardly any statement, pro or con, seems to move me one way or another. Perhaps this is also because I believe so firmly in the inherent quality of the so-called races that I just don't have to bother about that any more. Moreover, one of the first books I read—Jean Finot's "Race Prejudice"—made such a devastating sweep of the English and American forerunners of Adolf Hitler's race theories as Houston Chamberlain, Madison Grant, Lothrop Stoddard, that my mind was cleared of all doubt once and for all.

Mr. Rogers

However, from time to time, I do read a book so well, so comprehensively, so understandingly, written that I not only read it through with all the old zest, but feel that I must own it myself and tell one and all about it. Such a book was Dorsey's "Why We Behave Like Human Beings" published in 1926; such, also, is another published recently by Columbia university, "Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race," by Dr. M. F. Ashley Montague of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia.

SCIENTIFIC WORK ON RACE EQUALITY

Dr. Ashley Montague, as I gather from a list of his other works, has lived among primitive men as the Australian blacks and has made wide contacts with other peoples. He has also read widely on the history of the rise of the doctrine of white racial superiority, the result is that in "Man's Most Dangerous Myth" he has produced a book in the best tradition of the great upholders of the belief in the oneness of humanity as Shakespeare, Schopenhauer, Victor Hugo and Abdul Baha.

I WAS especialy delighted to meet in this scientific work many of the things I have affirmed and even written about for years. That, however, is not remarkable. Oncely you really believe in being decent and fair to other people, regardless of who or what they are, you'll come to certain inevitable conclusions, no matter what your degree of learning. Unfortunately, race seeking people and rotten racial politicians are going to use what knowledge they have, great or small, to exploit humanity as the Hitlers, Goebbels, and their Dixie friends in the Senate; while those who are good at heart are going to use what they know, much or little, to promote human dignity and equality of opportunity for all because in their heart of hearts they feel it is the only decent thing to do. In other words, the fundamental thing is not learning, but the texture of one's soul.

EXPLODES MYTH OF RACE SUPERIORITY

And that is why I particularly like Dr. Ashley Montague's book. He is first a humanitarian and with that as a base, he brings his great knowledge and experience to his support. The result is that he doesn't leave Hitler and his English, American and South African pals so much as a peg to stand on. He shows in clear, forceful, and well - reasoned language the artificiality of the myth, and how it was built up, and why.

"THE anthropologist," he says, has simply taken over a very crude eighteenth - century notion which was originally offered as no more than an arbitrary convenience and having erected a tremendous terminology and methodology about it, has deceived himself in the belief that he was dealing with an objective reality."

PEACE LEADERS SHOULD READ BOOK

Again, "So with the anthropological conception of race. It is, indeed, nothing but a whited sepulchre, a conception which in the light of modern field and experimental genetics is utterly erroneous and meaningless. As such it should be dropped from the anthropological as well as from the popular vocabulary, for it is a term which has done an infinite amount of harm and no good at all."

THERE are so many good similar passages that I shall not attempt to quote any more. But I do feel that this book should be read by everyone. If those who are going to write the peace really mean to head off a World War III —which looks now as if it will be a war of the so-called races, then Dr. Ashley Montague's book is a must. In fact every political leader of the Allied nations ought to read and digest his chapter on "Race and War."

A MUST FOR NEGROES

Especially do I wish to call the attention of Negroes to this book, because it will help them to see more clearly than ever how utterly unjust, how utterly without foundation, is their present treatment and exploitation in this country and other lands. Thus one effect will be to stir them to greater efforts to be free.

P. S. — Dr. Ashley Montague's book is published by the Columbia University Press, New York City, and the price is $2.25. There are 216 pages with index and an excellent bibliography. Chapter Eight deals with Race Mixture and the American Negro. Please do not order it through me, but from the publishers.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

RACE RIOT. By Alfred McClung Lee. 143 pp. New York: The Dryden Press, 103 Park Avenue. $2.

An eyewitness account of the riots in Detroit and a practical program to prevent race riots.

TOM TERN, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST LIARS, THOUGH HEADED FOR HELL, MISSED ALL OF ITS FIRES, THUS PROVING THAT "WHILE THE LAMP HOLDS OUT TO BURN, THE VILEST SINNER MAY RETURN."

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Powell, Sr., is the book's dad
And while it's full of rough stuff,
It brings good out of bad, with its
Charming witticisms and stories,
That are not at all sad.

The book, "PICKETING HELL," is so full of the spirit of the place from which it derives its name, that while reading you smell the sulphur and brimstone, that fuel, used by Satan to torture the souls of those,

Who have missed "the beautiful gates ajar,"
And from the straight and narrow path, wandered far.

* * *

Unless the reader has been informed concerning its general trend, he is more than apt to cast the book aside after the first few pages and rate it, as one of those fanciful stories, concocted to appeal to narrow, sensational loving, mentalities. That being my first conclusion, I soon "laid my Bible down" and "messed" in the mighty dust of my office, it remained for several days!

Finally, shy of some light reading material to peruse while eating, as "the dog returns to his vomit," I RETURNED TO THAT TOM TERN, FOR WHOM I DID NOT GIVE A DURN, BUT I NEVER PUT HIM LOWN AGAIN, SAVE WHEN FORCED BY THE STERN CALL OF DUTY! THE BOOK IS A GREAT PRODUCTION IN MANY WAYS, NOT THE LEAST BEING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOLY WRIT, IT DISPLAYS, BUT THE GRAND MORAL COURAGE ITS AUTHOR SHOWS!

Its ranking of Tom Tern, in the class of Baron Munchausen, enables us to realize the prodigality of Satan in creating liars! The coming of little Mary, who became the sweetheart and later the guardian angel of Tom, shows THE MIGHTY POWER FOR GOOD OR ILL, THAT A WOMAN OFTEN POSSESSES! Judging from the advice that Mary gave, when Tom wanted to demonstrate physically, his affection during their engagement, Mary had had, lots of experience and knowledge concerning man's desires, that she did not acquire from a correspondence school.

DR. POWELL'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN AND WILINESS OF WOMEN SHOWS THAT "HE KNOWS HIS STUFF AND HOW!" HE PAINTS A PICTURE OF CHURCH CORRUPTION, HOLY HYPOCRISY, THE RACKETEERING PROPENSITIES OF PREACHERS WHO HAVE STOLEN "THE LIVERY OF HEAVEN TO SERVE THE DEVIL IN," THAT THOUGH SAUNTERING, I WENT GLADLY ALONG, FOR AS WE READ OF HIS HERO, WE REALIZE, "THERE ARE STILL MEN IN DENMARK!"

* * *

The book is published by Wendell Malliet and Co., 209 W. 125th St., New York. N. Y.

EVERY CHURCH SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF THIS BOOK, EVERY PREACHER SHOULD READ AND REMEMBER IT, FOR 'TWAS WRITTEN BY A. CLAYTON POWELL, SR., PASTOR EMERITUS OF THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEW YORK CITY, LARGEST PROTESTANT CHURCH IN THE WORLD, "WHO KNOWS WHERE OF HE SPEAKS!"

Wendell P. Dabney.

BOOK REVIEW

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.
By THEODORE STANFORD

LIGHTING UP LIBERIA. By Arthur I. Hayman & Harold Preece. 279 pp. Illustrated. Creative Age Press, Inc. New York City. $2.50.

If truth resides in as much as half of what Arthur Hayman has to say about Liberia, the leaders and the government of that microscopic African country are a foul breath in the face of all men who struggle to be free.

Stanford

LIGHTING UP LIBERIA concerns itself, generally, with considerations of: (1) President Barclay, the Liberian Government, and the economic, political, social, and cultural status of the Liberian masses; (2) Liberia and the pattern of foreign imperialist encroachment; (3) The United Nations, Liberia, and the post-war world.

"Liberia," declares Hayman, "is the only nation calling itself a republic holding human beings in slavery." While this statement does not present the whole kernel of the truth, it is obviously worthy of keen consideration. Let us follow the author as he elaborates upon this point. "Slave trading," Hayman says, "is much more covert than it was before the 'blackbird ring,' headed by Postmaster General Samuel A. Ross, Vice President Allen L. Yancy, and President Charles Dunbar Burgess King, was exposed in its infamy by the League Commission. Native tribes are still required to furnish their quota of unpaid laborers for the roads in the Americo-Liberian districts of the five counties. Otherwise the singing, gun-carrying soldiers will impose heavy fines upon

Speaking before the reluctant villages, tear down the thatched houses, and then drag the men forcibly from the

Congress of the United States recently, President Barclay is reported to have stated that the Liberian people

will willingly give THAT

DEMOCRACY S H A L L TRIUMPH." (My emphasis. T. S.)

In direct contrast to this statement, Hayman declares: "Gangs of agricultural workers, also dragged from their homes by soldiers, are—in this period of war—sent to remote plantations owned by Liberians in the up country. . .To give the whole system a semblance of legality within the Liberian Constitution, the natives are first assessed heavy fines for trivial or imaginary offenses, then required to work an indefinite time to pay the extortionate sums. The procedure is almost the same as that followed in some of our southern states where people are forced on chain gangs to pay the penalty due the law or else are rented out to some private contractor who receives the labor of the 'guilty' individual in return for payment of his fine."

For euch purpose, the author alleges, Liberian laborers were also shipped to the neighboring colonies of France, Spain, and Portugal. In defense of these accusations, he quotes extensively from the League of Nations report on a former investigation of such conditions.

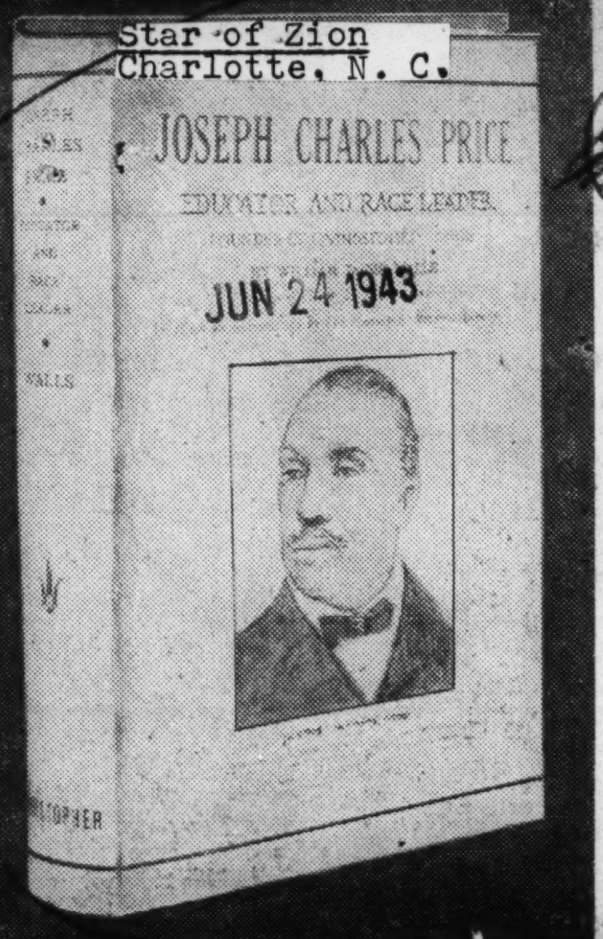
"Whatever may be the pious phrases in the Liberian Constitution," Hayman concludes, slavery "is the law in practice in Liberia—the law which supports Supreme Court Justice W. V. S. Tubman, partner and attorney for the slavers, and the true candidate. . . for President of Liberia in the next election."

Using the government's educational system as a means of illustrating the sharp social cleavage existing between the privileged upper classes and the oppressed and exploited masses of Liberia, Hayman observes: "Of course a gentleman or a lady must know how to read and write as a mark of distinction between him and the 'inferiors' who may reap his corn and polish his boots. That is pretty much the philosophy behind the so-called 'public schools' in the Americo-Liberian districts. To protect the little gentlemen and ladies against possible contamination from the ragged little boys and girls of the bush, it is necessary to assess an annual entrance fee of five pounds (approximately twenty dollars) for each child. THAT WOULD FEED A FAIR-SIZED NATIVE FAMILY FOR THREE MONTHS." (My emphasis. T. S.)

Disinterested and oppressive governments, throughout Africa, have left the education of Negroes principally in the charge of missionaries. Hayman wisely opines: "But I would not recommend any system of missionary-controlled public education for the future of Liberia and West Africa. The men of the cloth. tend to think inevitably in terms of paternalistic theocracy. . . But theocracies, are dated along with imperialism. particularly since they always tend to stamp out the traditional culture the native, turning him into an imitation white man."

Unwarranted Liberian illiteracy, bred of governmental neglect or discretion, is reflected in the poverty of the country output. "Not one single magazine is published in Liberia; not one single literary or historical review which might reflect the relation of this nation to a world of many nations. The one periodical of the country is a weekly four-page paepr, printed in outworn type, which obediently lauds every policy of President Barclay, and records the small lives of the aristocracy. Aside from abusive pamphlets, circulated against each other by rivals in business or politics, this little paper is the sole literary output of the country. There are no bookstores, and no libaries worthy of the name."

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.



JOSEPH CHARLES PRICE

Race Leader and Educator

An entrancing biography of this great man of God

By BISHOP WILLIAM J. WALLS

This well-written biography is most helpful and inspirational. It covers every phase of Dr. Price's life from preconversion days to the rich, fruitful last days on earth.

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SOAPBOX . .

by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

POWELL

NO ONE can appreciate the full significance of this war nor can he be a citizen of the post-war people's world until he has read ONE WORLD by Wendell Wilkie. Peoples Voice

Fortunately this book has been put out in a cheaper edition of one dollar, which is not only plenty good enough for anyone, but happens to be much easier reading. The phenomenal sale of over a millon copies to date is not only a testimony to the greatness of this book, but a testimony to the greatness of the author. Wendell Wilkie without a shadow of a doubt is the first world-citizen to emerge from the present conflict. He is the one great world figure who refuses to think behind the cobwebs of yesterday's world ofdi vision and isolationism.

Willkie knows the world because he knows the people. He knows that there have been let loose by this war, certain forces that have now gone beyond the powers of any leader or combination of leaders to recall. Itis his deep conviction that these forces have brought about a great awakening of the common peoples of the earth. He directly ties up the world-wide war in what he terms "our imperialisms at home."

If there is anything that stands out for the Negro reader more than any other item in this book it is what Mr. Wilkie calls "the twilight of imperialism." One great phrase bears burning into our minds "to have freedom we must give freedom." I will never forget the sign that one of the marchers carried in Washington, D. C., the other Saturda ur-

ing the parade of ten thousand blacks and whites for Negro bus d ers. That sign said—"IF NEGROES ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO DRIVE TANKS IN TUNISIA, THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO DRIVE TROLLEYS IN WASHINGTON, D. C." New York, N. Y.

That is just what Wendell Wilkie is trying to state. Not only as regards Negro people but as regards the people of Africa, Asia and especially those of the Soviet and China. The destinies of the common people of the world are at last inextricably intertwined in this one ideal —A PEOPLE'S WORLD.

We as Negro people must not let anyone at anytime attack the common people of any other nation and any other race.

Any time an individual attacks other common people, though he may attack them only to us, it will eventually reflect on ourselves. There is no such thing as "poor white trash," or kikes, or wops, or sheenies, or reds, or chinks. Jew, Italian, Irish, Russian, Chinese—ALL ARE OUR ALLIES.

WE ARE ALL POTENTIAL CITIZENS OF ONE WORLD.
That's what our Negro Freedom Rally is for—ONE PEOPLE!
ONE FIGHT! ONE WORLD!

8-1943

Pursuit Of Democracy

Dr. Odum Pleads for Understanding of South And Her Problems

By MARJORIE McKENZIE

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa
DEC 25 1943

ON Friday of last week a Statement on the Race Relations Crisis was issued by Oswald Garrison Villard and signed by 317 educational, religious and labor leaders from 37 states. The newspaper PM published the statement, which called to all America to end segregation in "all churches, all schools, all unions, all fraternal bodies and all businesses . . ." with the editorial comment that it defined a goal, rather than an immediate course of action. PM suggested that many Negroes, especially in the South, would prefer that their friends concentrate on the fight for job equality and for a mixed unit in the Army.

Miss McKenzie

Ordinarily, I would have considered this an extraordinarily cautious comment from the usually militant PM, but I had just finished the last pages of Howard W. Odum's new book, "Race and Rumors of Race," and I was in an extremely cautious state of mind myself and quite receptive, for the moment, to Victor Bernstein's restrained editorializing. I remembered that Mr. Bernstein has spent a lot of time in the South in the last year or more, covering race riots and for other reasons, and no doubt he has had a lot of sobering experiences. A Negro, wishing to get a sense of the temper of the South without being subjected to the indignities of Southern travel, can stay comfortably at home and get frightened in an armchair reading Dr. Odum's book.

DEC 25 1943

LEADERS SHOULD READ ODUM'S BOOK

Howard Odum is director of the Institute for Research in Social Service at the University of North Carolina. He serves as co-chairman with Dr. Charles S. Johnson, head of the Department of Social Science of Fisk university, of the continuing committtee appointed at the Richmond meeting of the Durham and Atlanta Conference of Negro and white Southern leaders, which is to work out procedures for interracial co-operation.

DR. Odum describes his book as the story of the racial crisis and its attendant rumors from July, 1942, to July, 1943. It is an accurate estimate of Southern reaction by a fair-minded white man, frequently identified as a liberal, then it ought to be read by all Negro leadership, radical and conservative. Upon its hypothesis, future decisions, techniques and strategy may be determined. The entire text is "literally an affectionate appeal to all the people of the nation" for sympathy and understanding of the South and her problems. It is written with great heart, but its truth—or its premise—is clear and unmistakable.

Dr. Odum presents the essence of the Southern Credo in 21 tenets, the pivotal point of which is that "the Negro is just a Negro," inferior to the white man, and must logically be kept in an inferior place—"his place." Furthermore, as a region, the South has incorporated her folkways into her stateways in the laws on segregation. Consequently, the South could not respond, during the war crisis to the demands of the North, of militant New Dealers and of radical Negro leaders that it abandon its credo and folkways in sacrifice to democracy. For, as Dr. Odum says, "any physical scientist or cultural anthropologist or student of history would know what the powers of centuries, and then later generations of conditioning with reference to race, had wrought. Any individual who used any sort of intelligence would know that nowhere in the organic world could such a situation be changed within a day or a week or a year or a decade."

DEC 25 1943

MY response to Dr. Odum's plea for sympathy and understanding of the South is that he has won both, but the victory is pyrrhic. I understand the South, perhaps better than I did before, with perhaps less hate, and I am sorry for all who are caught up in her folkways and her stateways. But also, I relinquish her to the long days of cultural incubation through which she must pass to catch up with the folkways of democratic thinking. And I would reiterate, with Edwin Embree, to the Negro Youth of the South, who do not wish their lives to be anachronisms of their times, to "arise and depart."

I would also admonish the framers of the Statement on Race Relations Crisis to address it to the North, which is not yet lost to the ages. For the South, bound by the vise of her heritage, can neither hear nor heed.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NAACP Detroit Riot Pamphlet Ready

"What Caused the Detroit Riots?" a pamphlet which presents a keen analytical study of the deep social maladjustments that set off the June carnival of violence that cost 34 lives and the loss of millions of war-work hours, is now available to the public, the NAACP announced this week. Joint authors of the pamphlet are: Thurgood Marshall, the Association's special counsel, and Walter White, secretary.

AUG 21 1943

The pamphlet contains 34 pages of factual material dealing with the riot itself and with

outh. Send to the publishers; review them in your clubs; get them o your boys in the camps. You will spread democracy this way.

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa
DEC 25 1943

Race Riot

According to authentic reports, 34 American citizens died, and more than 1,000 others were wounded in the streets of Detroit during the interracial flare-up the week of June 20. In addition to these human losses, there were losses in property, in national morale and in absenteeism, which, as Joseph D. Keenan, vice-chairman of the War Production Board, put it, amounted to a figure greater than that of "all the labor disputes in the entire nation in the first two months of the year."

To the end that civilized America might profit by what happened in Detroit and take steps in the direction of preventing future outbreaks anywhere, Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey, professors of sociology, Wayne university here present their book, "Race Riot" (The Dryden Press, New York, $1.50) which grew out of their study of the Detroit situation and the riot pattern in general.

Both authors were eye-witnesses of the 1943 Detroit riot. Hence, the book gives in detail a first-hand report of the events of that bloody week. It also analyzezs the causes of riots and outlines a program of prediction and prevention for race riots generally. The authors point out the fact that since race roits have symptoms (The Detroit riot was predicted 15 months before it actually occurred), the first step, then, in a prevention program is to learn to spot symptoms. The book offers suggestions for emergency measures to meet emergency crises.

"Race Riot" is an excellent contribution toward a solution of this grave problem. Already it is gaining nationwide attention.

ALFRED McC. LEE

DEC 25 194

The Race Question

In his book, "The Race Question and the Negro" (Longmans, Green and Company, $2.50), Father John LaFarge, S. J., gives a bold discussion on racial relations particularly as they concern the Negro in the United States. He presents the bare facts involved in such familiar issues as economic security and opportunity, race prejudice, social equality, segregation and intermarriage. He quotes numerous passages of scripture and utterances of Popes and theologians to illustrate Christian teaching on human unity.

DEC 25 1943

Father LaFarge holds an optimistic view concerning the whole situation. He believes that something can be done about the race problem, and offers as a solution a Catholic interracial program that seeks to remove disadvantages and violations of human rights as spring from prejudice and racial discrimination; to better opportunities for the race in such matters as housing, education, recreation, child-welfare, etc.

Regarding the conclusions which he has reached, he says, "I have not so much tried to persuade people to walk on a certain road, as to show them the road that I am convinced they are sooner or later going to walk on. I believe that many a person whose taste and traditions now incline him to cling to a detour will be driven by logic of his own principles and by the light of his own experience to come to this road, at long last."

Father LaFarge is the son of the well known painter and author John LaFarge, and is associate editor of "America." His 25 years of experience in "intimate contact with members of the Negro group, unlettered and highly educated, learned and unlearned, urban and rural, in different parts of the country," as well as his work as a missionary, have made the author unusually qualified to write on the race problem.

This book was originally published in 1937 under the title of "Interracial Justice." It has now been completely revised, brought up to date, and four new chapters added. Although written primarily for Catholic students, it should also prove of interest and value to all students of sociology and readers in interracial betterment.

EVELYN WIGGINS SHARPE.
De Land, Fla.

DEC 25 1943

Autobiography

There is an intangible strangeness about reading the autobiography of one who has recently died. Though a spirit as beautiful as that of Katherine Butler Hathaway's can never die. Nor will the reader ever forget the exqui-

ot only Katherine Hath- ory of family relation- her world; it is, more a story of her inner its unfolding is sheer Her excitement, pain, ours, such is her gift of . . . a gift that attained through complete hu- spirit and constant work the call of some inner surprised herself by pur- house in Castine, Maine; that blossomed into a der her skillful hands at had never lost their h as a lovely pattern is

$2.50) is not only away's story with ships and her than that, a life, and its poetry. Her expression . . . perfection . . . mility of spirit. Heeding the voice, she surprised herself by purchasing a house that will be yours, appear in the near future.

JESSIE M. COX.
New York, N. Y.

New York
Amsterdam News N. Y.

Lists Two "Must Books" For High School Students

Sir: There are two books that every high school boy and girl should read. One is **All-American**; the other is **Keystone Kids.** Both are written by John R. Tunis and published by Harcourt, Brace and Co. of New York City.

All-American is a fine football story. It is an exciting timely story. The climax comes when the Abraham Lincoln High School team finds its best player, the Negro boy on end, is to be kept at home when the team is challenged to play an intersectional game at Miami Florida. How these boys, fighting against odds, solve this problem has been described by John R. Tunis in a way that should stir the hearts of everyone who wants to see courage and character triumph over the sordid elements in American life. It is a great book. The New York Herald-Tribune book critic says, it is "The best story offered to boys not only this year but for a long time." My comment is that it rivals the books put out in the days when the anti-slavery writers were telling their stories.

Keystone Kids is a baseball story that challenges the interest of all lovers of the national game. More of inside big league baseball and player relationship is told in the pages of "Keystone Kids" than in any similar book. With the thrilling story of the fortunes of two rookies who come up through the minors to land berths on the Brooklyn Dodgers as the pivota players round the keystone sack. But here again Mr. Tunis has made the "thousand year" struggle of the Jew boy on the team against his persecutors the chief theme of his book. Every colored person will thrill with the masterful way Mr Tunis spins his narratives. Thousands of these books have been sold monthly during the last two years. Colored readers must read these books. You may not be able to buy them at the booksellers around the

SECOND THOUGHTS

By S. I. HAYAKAWA

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

DEC 18 1943

"Drums and Shadows"

CONSIDERABLE TIME has elapsed since its publication date, "Drums and Shadows," by the Georgia Writers' Project (University of Georgia Press, $3) has just fallen into my hands.

The book is a painstaking and dispassionate study of the superstitions, folk-beliefs, and magical practices among Georgia coastal Negroes, who are a group relatively untouched by the progress of the world around them. Because of the accidents of history and geography, it is among these coastal people, if anywhere, that the clearest examples are to be found, if anywhere, of the survivals of African culture brought over to America in slavery days.

S. I. Hayakawa

To the educated and urban Negro, who has taken over lock, stock, and barrel the dominant cultural pattern of the whites, a book such as this may perhaps be of little interest, since the Negro life described here is something that he has broken away from. It may be like trying to tell young Japanese-Americans about Japan—they usually don't want to hear anything about it.

On the other hand, to the thoughtful observer of Negroes in America, there has always been a question: how much of African culture, if any, survives among American Negroes?

Primitive Superstitions

"DRUMS AND SHADOWS" leaves little doubt that there are a number of important African survivals in the culture of Georgia coastal Negroes. These survivals are mostly in the form of beliefs in charms, spells, "conjures," witchcraft, and assorted kinds of magic. The investigators have patiently enumerated what are held to be the magical meanings of such acts as turning one's pockets inside out, burning salt on a fire, tying an eel skin around one's neck, burying a sack under the door, and marking a cross on the road. The thaumaturgical powers of "root men," of drums, of incenses and powders are described, usually in the words of the informants themselves.

In an appendix at the back of the book, quotations from numerous writers on Africa are given, showing parallel and often identical beliefs among various African tribes. These citations often point to a direct connection between the superstitions of Africa and those of the Georgia coastal region.

(The fact that these childish superstitions are still very much alive elsewhere than in Georgia is revealed, in case you hadn't noticed, in this newspaper and certain white New York newspapers under "Mail Order Bargains," where you will find voodoo perfumes, magical roots, "mystic" charms with phoney oriental names, and other such junk advertised.)

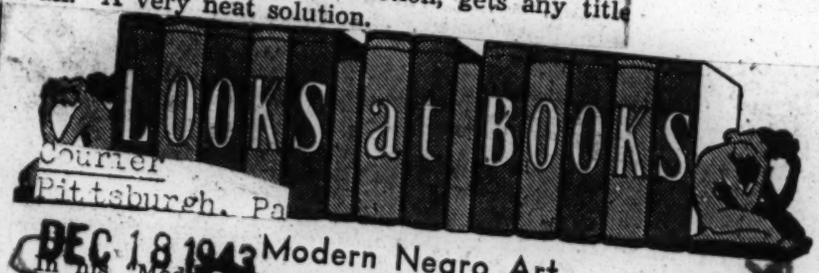
Excellent Photographs

ALTOGETHER, the net effect of "Drums and Shadows" is not, as the reader may be tempted to think, unfavorable to Negroes. The aims of the study are neither to add nor to detract, but merely to understand the psychology of a rapidly-dying ancient set of folk beliefs. It is obvious that the investigators have approached their subject with sympathy and conscientiousness.

Much more remains to be done, of course, on this whole question of African survivals in American Negro tradition. This book attempts to give no final answers. But when final answers are given, the wealth of material in this book will have to be taken account of.

I was much amused by one side-issue, however, in the volume. Because of the well-known Southern taboo against using "Mr." and "Mrs." with names of [illegible] because scientific justice demands equal treatment of all names mentioned in the book, no one, including distinguished Negro and white scientific consultants whose aid is acknowledged in the introduction, gets any title at all. A very neat solution.

DEC 18 1943



Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DEC 18 1943

Modern Negro Art

In his "Modern Negro Art" (Dryden Press, $3.25), Prof. James A. Porter of the Art Department of Howard university, has given us the first over-all account of Negro Art in this country, from early colonial days to the present, and thus placed us all in his debt. In pleasingly precise prose, he makes a critical appraisal of artistic personalities and their productions marked by warm sympathy and keen understanding, which will be valued by artists, historians and laymen alike. Here we find not only a thorough knowledge of background and varying techniques, but an appreciation of the handicaps under which so many Negro artists have labored. Thus we have social sensitivity coupled with mature judgment, all presented engagingly. The result is a thoroughly entertaining and informative work which will promptly take its place as an authoritative study. It is a fine labor of love and scholarship, and definitely a "must" book. Indeed, no more important book on the Negro has appeared this year.

In addition to an appendix, elaborate footnotes properly gathered at the back of the book, an extensive bibliography and a good index, there are 70 beautiful photographs of outstanding artistic creations of Negro painters, etchers, water colorists and sculptors. Altogether, it is a work to be treasured and should make an excellent Christmas present.

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER.

DEC 18 1943

The Promise

A sequel to "Dragon Seed," this latest book from the pen of Pearl S. Buck ("The Promise" . . . The John Day Co., New York, $2.50), will be thoroughly enjoyed by readers of the former novel. They will meet again the characters who lived outside the city of Nanking at the time of its capture by the Japanese.

DEC 18 1943

Pearl Buck put such emphasis on the behavior of the Japanese soldiers and highlighted certain sexual occurences after the siege, in such a manner that the influence of "Dragon Seed" is felt today, in the movies and the press, and the Japanese are becoming known [illegible] to the children of this country—as a cruel, rapacious, fanatic race of people. It will take years of peace and teaching to erase this picture. By just such means as this, the American Negro has been so unjustly stereotyped for generations.

DEC 18 1943

However, in this new book, the authoress has not so much to say of the Japanese, but seems to be venting her spleen upon the imperialistic Englishmen. This seems more justifiable in view of the fact that the sin of the English against the Orient dates back hundreds of years beyond the sin of the Japanese.

DEC 18 1943

This story tells of the battle of Burma for which a Chinese army—for the first time in the history of China—leaves its native land to fight on foreign soil to aid the Allies, spurred on by the white man's tall, handsome Third Son of Ling Tan becomes the hero of this second book of the Chinese farming family. He is an officer in the army that moves hopelessly into Burma. With his army goes the beautiful Mayli, whom he loves, in the role of leader of the nurses.

Because of wartime restrictions, this book has been compressed into 256 pages. It flows along in typical Pearl Buck style, and takes the reader immediately into the atmosphere of the Orient.—Constance C. Nichols, Trenton, N.J.

DEC 18 1943

The Axis On the Air

The June 1943 Detroit race riots provided both ends of the Axis with authentic material which their propagandists could easily distort and magnify, but for which they could still claim a solid basis of fact. The Japanese used the outbreaks in its intensive campaign to turn the Asiatics against the white race, and to create uneasiness among the Australians and New Zealanders about our ability to carry on the war. The violence was cited by Tokyo with obvious satisfaction as an example to substantiate its claim that "the domestic situation in the United States is turning from bad to worse."

The Berlin radio blamed the Communists for the Detroit riots. Its broadcast said:

"A proof is the big riot in Detroit. Unlike Germany and Italy, the United States is not composed of a uniform race. Fourteen million Negroes, for instance, are the permanent problem of a country where all labor must be utilized in the service of production."

The Rome radio broadcast sarcastically to France that: "Lynch law exists in the land of Christopher Columbus." These are the reports that Harold Ettlinger gives in his book, "The Axis on th eAir" (Bobbs-Merrill, 318 pp., $2.75).

The author says that the hatchet-faced, club-footed Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels is not only an unscrupulous and ambitious Nazi, but that he is the biggest liar in the world. Goebbels is a radio general, marshaling a battle of words to convince the American people that Germany is invincible, and that Germany has no designs on the United States. He attempts to destroy our national will to survive by creating confusion within. Aiding the Nazi propaganda minister are a number of Americans whom the author describes by name and pedigree.

DEC 18 1943

"Axis o[illegible] Air [illegible]" is reported in newspaper style, and thus easy to read. It is a good resource book. Ettlinger's personal acquaintance with many of the persons of whom he writes, and his careful selection of material greatly enhance the value of this volume. Anyone desiring first-hand information about the Axis radio should read this treatise.—Prentice Thomas, New York, N.Y.

Among the scholars contributing to these studies are: Dr. E. Frank[illegible] Sociologist, of How[illegible] communities; St. Clair Drake, Social Anthropologist and former[illegible] assistant Director of the Illinois [illegible] Commission on the Urban Negro [illegible] Baltimore; Edward S. Lewis, Director of the [illegible] New York Urban League; Algern[illegible] Black, Chairman of the [illegible] City-wide Citizens Committee [illegible] Harlem; Dr. Warren M. Banner[illegible] Director of Research of the Na[illegible] Urban League; Edifor Lewis [illegible] E. Martin of the Michigan Chron[illegible] and Dr. L. D. Reddick, his[illegible] of the New York Public Li[illegible]

DEC 25 1943

Nashville, Tenn.

DEC 25 1943

Magazine Shows Basic Study Of Northern Negro

Globe and Independent
New York, N. Y.

The Journal Of Edu[illegible] Sociology will contain [illegible] basic studies of the Negro in New [illegible]

DEC 25 1943

New Book Says Racial Segregation Is Spreading

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK — (ANP) — That segregation in America is increasing is the view expressed by Richard Sterner, white, in "The Negro's Share," a book written under the direction of Gunnar Myrdal, Swedish social scientist.

The publication was sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation, a philanthropic and research foundation.

"Colored people are moving from the farms, a combination of factors keeps their status in agriculture low, few of them showed gains in non-agricultural occupations in the South because they entered stagnant fields," writes Mr. Sterner.

DEC 25 1943

Majority in Unskilled Jobs

"Sixty-nine per cent of the colored people, as compared with 25 per cent of the white workers, are in unskilled occupations."

The author pointed out that [illegible] northern urban areas differentials [illegible] unemployment along racial [illegible] are more pronounced than [illegible] agricultural areas, but that the [illegible] come of the colored group is

8-1943

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 24, 1943

Literary Lantern

Seabrook's "No Hiding Place" a Frank Autobiography of Uninhibited, Unselfconscious Man. Life of Dr. Carver Will Be Published This Spring.

By CARA GREEN RUSSELL.

We were late reading William Seabrook's autiobiography, "No Hiding Place" (Lippincott, Philadelphia, $3.) but the fact hasn't in the least diminshed the total fascination of this man's lurid and disjointed life.

William Seabrook is apparently without repressions or inhibitions, a circumstance which makes him write with a frankness and unself-consciousness that is very refreshing to the Puritan attitude. He speaks of himself as having an abnormality or two, especially in his interest in women, but if he is victim so are millions of other men and women. The chief difference being that Seabrook makes no bones about it, while the average individual, being less temperamentous, manages to force his emotions to fit the mold of conventionality.

Hence, the author of "No Hiding Place" will not, in our opinion, shock any but the prudish and self-conscious by the scarlet, yet deeply sincere, record he unrolls for all to see. If man is a social being, giving and receiving from his fellow creatures, then it would appear that William Seabrook comes closer to the mark of normality than his silent, secretive, inhibited brothers; and the world is filled with that kind.

* * *

Seabrook was born in a little town in Maryland in 1886. His parents were good people of average wealth. His father, although a lawyer with a successful political career before him, one day "got the call" to preach. No pleadings, roars, cussings, or threats of ruination from his patriarchal father could turn him from his course.

The portrait the author presents of this large and bearded grandparent, editor and part owner of the Westminster, Maryland, "American Sentinel" is brilliant. Grandfather Seabrook was a big man in his town, and every body feared him, when his temper rose, everybody except his tiny wife.

"The only man, woman or child in Carroll County who wasn't afraid of him," writes the author, "was my very-much-younger Grandma Piny. This wasn't because she was like a full-blown rose, still lovely. She never traded on his white beard, her youth or Southern-lady nonsense. Nor did she ever show her thorns. It went deeper than that. She'd been born with a caul, and had been nursed by a black Obeah slave-girl from Cuba, had been fey, had had visions and powers since her plantation childhood. These roots went down so deep beneath her seldom-disturbed tranquillity—and presently began affecting my childish life and dreams so deeply—that I despair of making you understand, much less condone them, though I shall try my best to do both."

This paternal grandmother and spiritual ancestor, it is implied, affected the child so deeply and permanently that he has never escaped from her. She was a strange, wraith-like creature who spent her days in a fairy land of dreams, indescribable images, rapturous experiences—all derived from a little black bottle of opium.

There are pages that can only be called incredible, fantastic, filled with magic (black magic would be no exaggeration), other-worldly, if you please. This weird behavior usually took place on the walks taken hand by the middle-aged, yet child-like, grandmother and the unhappy and home-sick grandson. Across the fields and through the woods of the Maryland countryside they went in search of things that cannot be told in words. When shall be read anything like it again?

However, most of the book is concerned with Seabrook's adult years, from the time he entered Doddsburg college in South Carolina, where, incidentally, Seabrook was a poor student, to his first job as a stenographer in a railway freight office in the same town. Why had a young man like Seabrook learned to be the fastest short-hand practitioner in the county?

"My obsession, my absorption was in the intrinsic curliques themselves. They were mysterious, beautiful, secret, hieratic, abstractly beautiful, or so I felt, and in addition there was something bordering on the magical in the fact that from a few simple, segmented lines of one circle, one square and one equilateral triangle, supplemented solely by occasional dots and shadings, pot-hooks and tinier closed circles, had been formed a simple system that could catch in flight, embalm and record, all the myriad sounds, vowels, consonants and shadings of human speech, including the illiterate evidence in court of hurried, freightened negro witnesses, the quick quarrels of children, the tragedies of Shakespeare mouthed from stages, the extemporaneous feryid prayers, the rearing glory of Old Testament prophets vocalized by Papa from the pulpit. . . ."

Short-hand—the dullest subject on earth, yet the author with his magic has made it sound like the most fascinating. His style as you know from this extract is dynamic, electric, absorbing. And incapable of being dull.

But this is an autobiography and takes the author from his first remembrance to the present time. If you have read any of his other books — "Adventures in Arabia," "This Magic Island," "Asylum"—you know that there is plenty of adventure here. Seabrook's life is unlike all other lives, even in little things, and as for the big experiences, who can match him?

* * *

A short time ago Dr. George Washington Carver of Tuskegee Institute died. He was one of the country's great men, simple, wise, giftd, humane. Many will be eager to read the story of his remarkable life and it is being published this spring by Doubleday, Doran.

The author, Mrs. Rackham Holt, has worked for more than three years on the book with Dr. Carver, who in spite of failing health, maintained a deep interest, not in the recounting of his life and achievements, but in the story as Mrs. Holt has developed it, of the many outstanding scientific discoveries which have come from his lifetime in the laboratory.

The book is entitled: "George Washington Carver: An American Biography." It should have many, many readers.

New Books With Material By Negro Writers

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

NEW YORK, Apr. 15. (ANP) —Among the new pocket books now on the newsstands, two contain material by Negro writers, while several Negro writers are represented in the "Pocket Book of Quotations." The "Pocket Book of American" contains the Langston Hughes poem, "Let America Be America Again." Also the recently-published "Spiritual Almanac for Service Men," issued by the Christian commission for camp and defense communities, contains quotations from Dunbar, Hughes, and Leslie Pinckney Hill.

Jim Tully's latest book, a collection of personality sketches, has a chapter devoted to Henry Armstrong, and the visit which he and Langston Hughes had with Tully in Hollywood. The book also contain sketches of Charlie Chaplain, Jack Dempsey, Walter Winchell and other famous Americans.

APR 18 1943

NEW WORLD A-COMING NOW 20,000 COPIES

Boston—Houghton Mifflin Company have printed 20,000 copies of Roi Ottley's "New World A-Coming," the book that recently won their $2,500 Life-In-America award.

The work of a distinguished Negro journalist, "New World A-Coming" is the story of Harlem, the capital of the Negro world, and a vivid picture of life "inside Black America." In addition to its diverting and amusing scenes it deals with problems that are age-old and universal, problems of race, prejudice, labor, religion, nationalism and war.

FEB 1 4 1943

Negro People in New England Before the Revolutionary War

By Eric Bert

Professor Greene's book describing "The Negro in Colonial New England" from the founding of the colonies up to the Revolution is an important contribution to the history of our country, especially to the history of the Negro people and of New England.

"The purpose of the study," the author says, is to describe the manner in which the slave traffic began and the status of the imported blacks in the society of Colonial New England. Professor Greene's fulfillment of that task is not only scholarly but extremely interesting.

The book is extremely valuable in two respects: First it shows the relation of Negro slavery (and white indentured servitude) to the basic free economy of New England, during the first century and a half of our history.

Secondly, it shows the effects of slavery on the political, religious and educational development of New England. As long as slavery existed it tended to corrupt New England's culture.

THE NEGRO IN COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND 1620 TO 1776, by Lorenzo Johnston Greene. Columbia University Press, New York.

New England's slaves were employed not only as farm hands and as servants but also, due to a shortage of white labor as skilled and semi-skilled workers in a variety of trades and crafts.

The peculiar economic position of slavery in New England, as contrasted with the south, was reflected in the dual status of the Negroes. "They were considered both as property and as persons before the law," Greene points out.

"New England slavery," was a curious blending of servitude and bondage. Under this system the slave assumed a more or less determinate status, varying between that of a person and that of property."

The same duality is evident in the relation of the churches to the slaves.

Negroes were barred from the militia, because the slaves feared rebellion. In time of war—against the Indians, French, and British—the Negroes were allowed to fight.

"The military proscription of the Negro, first imposed against him through fear of retaliation during the colonial period, still persists in modified form to the present time." Professor Greene points out. "Although his services have always been used in time of war, he alone, of all the groups comprising the American population, has been compelled to fight for the right."

"The New England Negroes played their greatest military role in the American revolution," he says. "When Paul Revere aroused the Massachusetts countryside on that memorable night of April 18, 1775, they called Negro as well as white

FEB 1 4 1943

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FEB 1 4 1943

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COURIER PRESENTS READERS FAMOUS POEM

ATLANTA PASTOR'S BOOK NOW OFF PRESS

FEB 20 1943

Dr. William Holmes Borders Gives Resume Of Negro History In His Poem That Will Eventually Become a Classic In American History and Literature

FEB 20 1943

In response to the enthusiastic appeals following the recent address made on "Wings Over Jordan" by Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of the Greater Wheat Street Baptist church, Atlanta, Ga., The Courier presents the poem recited at the close of the message, so admired by all, entitled, "I AM SOMEBODY":

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am a poet in Langston Hughes.
I am a creator of rhyme in Paul Laurence Dunbar.
I am a Christian statesman in J. R. E. Lee.
I am a diplomat in Frederick Douglass.

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am a soldier in Colonel Young.
I am courage in Crispus Attucks.
I am a contralto in Marian Anderson.
I am a world-famous tenor in Roland Hayes.
I am a radio artist in Dorothy Maynor.
I am a humorist in Bert Williams.

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am an athlete in Bennie Jefferson.
I am a sprinter in Ralph Metcalfe.
I am an intelligent pen in the hand of DuBois.
I am a college president in John Hope.
I am a fighter in Samuel Howard Archer.
I am a breaker of world records in Jesse Owens.

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am an orator in P. James Bryant.
I am a preacher in C. T. Walker and L. K. Williams.
I am a composer in Nathaniel Dett.
I am a boxer in Armstrong.
I am a knockout punch in Joe Louis.

FEB 20 1943

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am a scientist in George Washington Carver.
I am an industrial educator in Booker Washington.
I am an actor in Richard B. Harrison.

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am a congressman in Oscar DePriest and Arthur Mitchell.
I am a skin specialist in Lawless and teach what I know at Northwestern.
I am a pathologist in Julian Lewis and serve on the University of Chicago faculty.
I am the first successful operator on the human heart in Daniel Hale Williams.
I am a grand specimen of womanhood in Mary McLeod Bethune.

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am a moulder of character in Nannie Burroughs.
I am a banker in R. R. Wright and L. D. Milton.
I am a certified public accountant in Jesse Blayton.
I am a sculptor in Henry O. Tanner.
I am a business man in Alonzo Herndon.

I AM SOMEBODY—
I am an insurance executive in A. G. Spaulding.
I am a biologist in Just of Howard.
I am a Historian in Carter Woodson.
I am a lover of education in Charlotte Hawkins Brown.
I am abeautician in Madame Walker.
I am a trustee in slavery—I protected my master's wives and daughters while he fought to keep the chains of slavery about my body.
I am a Bishop in W. A. Fountain.
I am a ball of fire in Richard Allen.
I am a laborer in John Henry.
I am a Christian in "Tom," for indeed I practiced the religion of Jesus at points better than my master from whom I learned it.

FEB 20 1943

I AM SOMEBODY.

The book titled, "Seven Minutes at the 'Mike' in the Deep," carrying 15 of Dr. Borders' sermons and the poem, "I Am Somebody," now off the press, is available by writing the author at his church.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Ante-Bellum, Anti-Negro

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE FIFTH COLUMN, *by George Fort Milton. Vanguard. $3.50.*

WHAT are we to think of a "history" which, published in the midst of another great struggle for national survival, writes bitterly of the draft of soldiers in the Civil War; denounces the suppression of Copperhead newspapers as a "mistaken step"; decries the military offensive as an error and attributes to it the lost battles of the first years of the war; charges up the growth of Copperhead sentiment and organization in large part to the draft and to the Emancipation Proclamation; and speaks regretfully of the fact that Jefferson Davis lost the "opportunity for a negotiated peace"? Mr. Milton has not drawn the obvious inferences for 1943, but the fifth columnists will certainly not hesitate to do so.

FEB 16 1943

It is worth while to discuss in greater detail the book's attack upon Negro emancipation. George Fort Milton is one of those historians who have never resigned themselves to the fact that the Civil War freed the slaves. Already the author of a number of anti-Abolition historical works, he has once more approached his favorite theme. This time he has made a flank attack, using the story of the Copperheads as the occasion. It is Mr. Milton's thesis that the Emancipation Proclamation was in large part responsible for fifth column activity. We quote from scattered passages:

FEB 16 1943

". . . it (the Proclamation) intensified and quickened the transformation of such secret societies as the Knights of the Golden Circle . . . into active agencies of treason. . . . A great many Union soldiers . . . felt let down, almost betrayed, by the new revolutionary purpose for which the war would be waged hereafter. . . . Such leaders . . . as Horatio Seymour . . . hinted that if emancipation were the price the President had to pay for continued support from the Radical Republicans, it had been used to buy men who were no longer loyal at heart to the Union cause. And there seemed some ground for this suspicion." Emancipation was "an excuse for Copperhead conspiracy. . . . Men on treason's political fringe denounced with new fury these unconstitutional activities of the administration." Of the reverses suffered by the Lincoln administration in the 1862 elections—reverses due to the failure to take the offensive on the military and political fields—we hear that "the draft law, the Emancipation Proclamation—all these contributed to the humiliatingly adverse outcome. . . . Politically, the Proclamation had been a mistake."

FEB 16 1943

Mr. Milton's Civil War hero is Gov. Horatio Seymour of New York. Seymour publicly challenged the Emancipation Proclamation. He hindered conscription by questioning its legality; denounced the arrest of traitors; addressed the draft rioters in New York City in words that could only be interpreted as approval and encouragement; presided over the 1864 convention of the Democratic Party that adopted a platform of immediate negotiated peace with the Confederacy. And this is the man of whom the author says: "His loyalty to the Union cannot be gainsaid."

Negroes in This War

Important facts concerning the Civil War's fifth column are to be found in this book, but the reader must be constantly on the alert to separate these facts, tediously and painstakingly, from their anti-Abolition context. He will therefore do better to read the history of the Copperhead movement in such works as Wood Gray's *The Hidden Civil War* (reviewed by Samuel Sillen in NEW MASSES for Sept. 22, 1942).

What the negroes of the United States have won and what they would lose if they were not vigilant in this war to the end that freedom more certain for all other races.

FEB 16 1943

ELIZABETH LAWSON.

Pvt. Robert H. Brooks, negro, the first ted States war casualty of the United States ld lose in armored forces, killed near Fort Stot- nted pic-enburg, the Philippines, December 8, a booklet 1941. NEWS OF SAVANNAH GA. We may have come a long way since r War In- 1865, the OWI booklet points out. The ar" is the ow serving colored people of America appreciate the world that way has been toward greater free- ls is the dom. They are serving in this war to There are make that freedom more certain for s of the themselves and all other races.

Negroes in This War

Brooks Field at Fort Knox is named for

race are in officers' training schools.

8-1943

Record Of Negro Acheivements In Many Fields Is Recorded In Booklet "Negro And The War"

"The Informer"

JAN 16 1943

WASHINGTON, D. C.- The Office of War Information last week began distribution of 2,000,000 copies of a booklet issued to record the achievements of Negro Americans in many fields and to recognize officially their important contributions to the fighting of the war.

In Rotogravure

The 72-page booklet, "Negroes and the War.," is done in rotogravure and combines text with 141 photographs. The six-page preface is written by Chandler Owen, well-known Chicago publicist. Distribution will be through insurance companies, churches, schools, and colleges, labor unions, motion picture theatres, professional groups and other channels.

JAN 16 1943

Houston, Tex.

By word and picture, the booklet tells:

What Negroes are doing in agriculture, industry and in the armed services.

What Negroes have to gain by an American victory.

By word and picture the booklet also outlines the progress made by Negro citizens in recent years, in education, economically, and in the arts and sciences.

"There were 1.643 students in Negro colleges in 1916," the booklet states. "By 1941 the number had grown to 40,000—thus increasing 24 times over in 25 years . . . there are now approximately 100 universities and colleges devoted exclusively to Negro education."

Young Generation of the Land

In a section called "The Young Generation of the Land," the booklet discusses advancements in elementary and high school education:

"In the 17 southern states during the year 1915 only 58 per cent of the Negro children between 6 and 14 were enrolled in school. By the school year, 1939-40, some 85.9 per cent of the children between 5 and 17—a much wider age range— were regularly in attendance. There were 2,174,260 in elementary school and 254,580 in high school. The number of youngsters in high school has more than doubled in 10 years."

The booklet makes this comment on housing improvement:

"In 1937, the United States Government started a slum clearance program. The object was to provide decent homes for poor people. Of the 121,500 homes contracted for in city areas, approximately 40,600 are or will be ocupied by Negro tenants."

On the subject of the Negro in business the booklet says:

"There were about 30,000 Negro-owned stores in this country in 1938. The number has grown since. Sales for the same year totalled $71,000,000. There are eleven banks owned and operated by Negroes. There are forty-one member companies of the National Negro Insurance Association—they have 2,800,000 policies and $422,000,000 worth of insurance in force."

JAN 16 1943

Pictures and statistics show the progress in health:

"The death rate among Negroes has gone down remarkably in thirty years' time. In 1911 insurance statistics placed the death rate at 18.5 per thousand people. In 1930, U. S. census figures placed it at 16.5 and in 1940, at 13.9 per thousand. This represents not only advancements in medicine, but more hospital beds (though not enough), better care, and an increase in government - financed clinics and health services.

110 Negro Hospitals in U. S.

"There are 110 Negro hospitals in the United States. Some 22 of these are fully approved and five provisionally approved by the American College of Surgeons. Despite advances. the need for more hospitals is an imperative one which must be dealt with after the war there is now one hospital bed for 1,000 Negroes as against one bed for every 110 whites."

The booklet devotes picture sections to many subjects—the Negro press, the church, the farmer, the city dweller, the government worker. There are sections on the Negro in music and art, in athletics, in labor unions, and in industry. Seven pages of photographs are given over to the activities of Negroes in the armed services of the country.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NEGROES' WAR AID TOLD IN BROCHURE

JAN 17 1943

OWI Gives Official Recognition to Their Role in Civilian Life and the Services

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—The achievements of Negro Americans in many fields are recorded in a booklet issued by the Office of War Information today, in official recognition of their important contribution to the war effort and in the armed forces. The OWI plans to distribute 2,000,000 copies of the brochure.

JAN 17 1943

Under the title, "Negroes and the War," the publication has seventy-two pages and is done in rotogravure with 141 reproductions of protographs. A six-page preface is written by Chandler Owen, Chicago publicist. The booklet tells:

What Negroes are doing in agriculture, industry, and in the armed services; what Negroes have to gain by an American victory, and what they would lose should the Axis win.

In addition, the brochure outlines the progress of Negroes in recent years in education, economically, and in the arts and sciences.

"There were 1,643 students in Negro colleges in 1916," the booklet states. "By 1941 the number had grown to 40,000. There are approximately 100 universities and colleges devoted exclusively to Negro education."

JAN 17 1943

In a section on "The Young Generation on the Land," it says:

"In the seventeen Southern States during the year 1915 only 58 per cent of the Negro children between 6 and 14 were enrolled in school. By the school year 1939-40 some 85.9 per cent of the children between 5 and 17—a much wider range—were regularly in attendance. There were 2,174,260 in elementary school and 254,580 in high school. The number of youngsters in high school has more than doubled in ten years."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 2, 1943

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

JAN 2 1943

". . . the land of the bean and the cod,
Where Cabots talk only with Lodges
And Lodges talk only with God."

Praise the Lord for another book about Negroes in which "The Negro" does not appear. Harold Mathews, a Louisiana social worker, holds fast to sympathy and multiplies understanding in his first novel, "River-Bottom Boy," by making it one about many different denominations of Negroes in New Orleans. There are color lines within the race itself, class distinctions, segregations. There are vicious Negroes, shallow ones, clean-hearted and deserving ones, Negroes who are the scum of the earth and Negroes who are first-class human beings. As in J. Saunders Redding's "No Day of Triumph," you are made aware not of "The Negro" but of 13,000,000 Negroes living in the United States and 10,000,000 of them in the South, a great minority population not to be covered under one blanket of hate, love or indifference.

JAN 2 1943

Mr. Matthews makes a narrative so sure-footed and true that nominates himself for many other novels. The oppression and under-privilege to which the race is subjected everywhere are between his lines but even more there is the suggestion of moral and spiritual distinction between rural life and city and between austere living and cheaply riotous living, no matter what race is involved. The peace and simplicity of the river-bottom which was deserted for the city are recalled throughout the book and there is, too, a constant contrast between sternly characterful living and the tawdry insufficiencies of living "in the money" without human excellence of any sort.

JAN 2 1943

If there is a moral to Harold Matthews' book—and we are sure he meant none—it is that among all races and for all causes after this war there is going to have to be more thought for quality in living as well as for economic and political quantity.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

THE NEGRO IN BOOKS

STEPPIN AND FAMILY" by Hope Newell; illustrated by A. Peck. (Oxford University Press, New York, N. Y.—$2.00. Reviewed by: Augusta Braxston Baker.

JAN 24 1943

STEPPIN lives in Harlem with his mother and sister, Mary Ellis. Steppin's one and only interest in life is to become a great tap-dancer. Steppin's mother could not afford to pay for Steppin's dancing lessons because Mother had to work too hard to provide a home for her children. One day while Steppin (Steppin and Family, by Hope Newell, Oxford University Press, N. Y., $2.00), was sitting under the famous "Wishing Tree" on Seventh avenue a man drove up and asked him what were his wishes.

JAN 24 1943

This man was Bob Williams (we recognize "Bojangles" Robinson) the great tap-dancer and it was he who changed Steppin's whole life for he sent Steppin to Dad's dancing school. The story not only deals with the fulfillment of Steppin's desire but it also paints a true and most interesting picture of family life in Harlem.

Anne Feck has drawn Steppin and his family and friends with accuracy and sympathetic understanding. She has caught the spirit of Harlem and the Negro race and yet she has not found it necessary to caricature. The book is full of humor but it never "pokes fun." Miss Newell, though she is not a Negro, writes with a keen insight and great understanding of the life of the average Negro. She has been for some time a superintendent of the Harlem maternity section of the Henry Street Settlement nurses. This experience brought her in close contact with the people of Harlem and Steppin was from that contact.

The book will appeal to youth and grown-ups. It has humor, suspense and all of the vital qualities necessary to make a story a good book.

teach Negro history by singing of the lives of prominent racial leaders, is scheduled for early release by Handy Brothers Music company, it was announced last week.

Collaborating with William C. Handy on the music is Jean Stor, composer. Latest song written for the volume is a tribute to the late Dr. George Washington Carver with lyrics by Andy Razaf and music by Jean Stor.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

JAN 24 1943

Handy to Bring Out Song Book, Teaching Our Great History

NEW YORK, N.Y., Feb. 18 — (ANP) — A new volume, "Unsung Americans — Sung," designed to

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Ben Davis Shows Importance of Browder Book to Harlem Issues

JAN 18 1943

The daily problems of the people of Harlem—day nurseries, schools, food prices, housing—formed the background of Benjamin J. Davis' talk Friday night in the auditorium of the 135th St. Branch Library on "Victory—and After" Earl Browder's latest book.

JAN 18 1943

Mr. Davis, New York County chairman of the Communist Party and leader of the Upper Harlem section, began by saying that in giving a public review of Browder's book he was giving also the Communist Party's position on the vital questions of the day.

Benj. J. Davis, Jr.

"The sense of this book is how to achieve victory in this war," Mr. Davis said, adding that "any such book must of necessity deal with Negro Americans." He pointed out that "our problems are intertwined with the problems of the peoples of the world."

JAN 18 1943

In discussing the position of the Communist Party on vital questions of the day, Mr. Davis referred to the day nursery of the Church of the Master, of which the Rev. James H. Robinson is pastor. Mr. Robinson was chairman of the meeting.

JAN 18 1943

Mr. Davis declared that the day nursery would have had its fire alarm system and would not, therefore, have suffered curtailment of its usefulness if the government had a centralized war economy.

"A centralized war economy would see to it that a day nursery got its fire alarm system, because it would realize that such a nursery is essential to a mother who has a job in war industry. A centralized war economy would look upon a fire alarm system in a day nursery as an essential part of the war economy," he said.

Mr. Davis showed the importance of the fight for better housing, rationing, price control, to the struggle of labor for increased production, opening a land front against Hitler in Western Europe and maintaining genuine unity among the United Nations.

The fight for Negro rights, he demonstrated, is more than merely a moral issue. It is, he said, a war issue, and must, therefore, be kept up in the interest of winning the war.

Mrs. Dorothy Robinson Homer, branch librarian of the 135th St. library since July 1, 1942, told the audience that the meeting had a two-fold purpose: first, to discuss Mr. Browder's book and, secondly, to determine whether the gathering wished to hold subsequent discussions.

JAN 18 1943

The audience at the close of a brief question-and-answer period, voted unanimously to continue Friday night discussions. Mr. Robinson was unanimous choice as permanent chairman.

Mr. Robinson, in a short introductory speech, had praised "Victory—and After" as a book form which he had learned much and which he felt everybody should know.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Zora N. Hurston's New Book An Autobiography

By HAZEL L. GRIGGS
(For ANP)

"DUST TRACKS ON A ROAD"
By Zora Neal Hurston
..J. B. Lippincott, 294 pp. $3...

A circuit of living, dotted with Florida, New York, Haiti, has been Zora Neale Hurston's, and never was a girl better endowed to take these places and their people in stride.

JAN 2 - 1943

"Dust Tracks On a Road," Miss Hurston's autobiography, is a brilliant and analytical portrait of one of the better young writers, and it makes very clear the reason why her books show such keen insight into life and living. Zora Hurston has lived, and still is living, a vibrant and ingenious life.

MINISTER'S DAUGHTER

The daughter of a forceful Baptist minister and a small, sensitive yet vital mother, Zora Hurston reveals herself as a criss-cross of delicate intuitions and strong rebellions.

JAN 2 - 1943

Her childhood was spent in an all-Negro town in Florida, where as one of the younger of a large family, she was poor, but content until her mother's death.

Her experiences for many years following this occurrence were difficult enough to discourage a less persevering person.

Yearning for knowledge and formal schooling, however, Zora persisted until she had fought her way through Morgan, Howard and Barnard colleges. And continued on her upward climb to become a foremost anthropologist in the realm of Negro folklore and Negro cultures.

JAN 2 1943

INTIMATE PORTRAIT

Intelligently and zestfully written, as are all Zora Hurston's books, this intimate portrait of her is sensitively etched and skillfully analyzed.

Though it reaches beautiful poetic heights in many of its passages, it never strays far from the practical, and while we feel that Zora has a spirit that soars we also discover that always she has her feet firmly on the ground.

Zora Hurston is wholly unrace-conscious in its devitalizing sense. She considers herself as an individual and those, whose life she touches, as individuals, regardless of race.

JAN 2 - 1943

This attitude, undoubtedly, has been a springboard to her talent. Commenting on talent, she says:

"If the stuff is in you it is likely to come out and if it isn't it does not make any difference whether you are white, black, green, or cerise." This is only one of many down-to-earth witticisms in the book.

JAN 2 1943

SUPERB PASSAGES

One of the classic passages of the book is Miss Hurston's treatise on "My people! My people!" Superbly written, that chapter is to this reviewer's mind one of the most provocative in Negro literature.

There is vigor and meaning in Zora Hurston's writing, and always the reflective mind sensitive to beauty and intelligence is revealed.

The author is a quick-witted, life-loving individual, and her book treats with candor and humor the story of her people and herself. For a rewarding experience read Zora Hurston's "Dust Tracks On a Road."

Thomasville, Ga., Wkly. Times-Ent
January 26, 1943

Negroes And The War—

The United States Office of War Information has published a booklet, giving out some valuable information on the achievements of the Negroes in agriculture, industry, education, and in armed service of the United States of America. The reports are very fine, it would be encouraging if the Negroes in Thomasville and Thomas county could justly share in these honors.

To be just in the criticism, it should be known that it is not quite fair to make a blanket charge against all of the Negroes in our fair city, for there are some very fine religious teachers in the Church Schools, which are in session every Sabbath morning. An effort is being made to have every day school teacher in the county, to take some part in the Sabbath worship; especially in the teaching and training department, when these departments are properly complied with certainly the preaching service can not be neglected.

If we are to win this war, which must be done; God's Church must have the right-of-way.

The writer humbly makes this earnest request, that every Christian in our fair city see to it, that every person in the household, whether son, daughter, servant, or visitor prepare to the house of worship on the Sabbath day; laying on the altar a sacrifice of a good warm meal for breakfast or dinner.

May we allow the boys, who will in a very short time be the men who are supposed to have dominion over every thing that liveth, come away from the boot-black stands, golf links, street pilfers, and loafers, and go up to the sanctuary and be taught the principles of the Holy Bible.

An other appeal is made to every colored person who may be interested in a better living program for Negroes in Thomasville to meet at the Colored Community Center on West Clay street, next Monday night at 8 o'clock.

We should by all means see that 1943 shall not be blurred with a record showing that fifty-two hundred dollars paid out for crime committed by members of our race who do not attend regularly any Sabbath worship.

G. H. KENNEDY, Reporter.

The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Prize Essay by War Worker in 'Opportunity'

MAR 31 1943

NEW YORK CITY. — The essay written by a Negro woman war worker which won the special award of a $50 War Bond offered by Opportunity Magazine appears in the current "Brown American Womanpower" issue which is devoted to presenting a picture of the part of Negro women in the war effort.

In addition to a leading guest editorial by Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, National Director of the War Manpower Commission, contributors include Miss Mary Anderson, Chief of the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor; Langston Hughes, well-known poet; Msr. Delolah Harris of the National Youth Administration; Miss Frances H. Williams of the Office of Price Administration; and LeRoy W. Jeffries of the United States Employment Service.

MAR 31 1943

This special issue of Opportunity magazine, is one of the features of the National Urban League's Eleventh Vocational Opportunity Campaign, being carried on under the slogan, "Womanpower is Vital to Victory."

MAR 31 1943

The magazine is historically interesting in that it gives very comprehensive pictorial, factual, and hitherto unpublished information on

Negro Magazine Gains 10,000 State Coverage

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
November 14, 1943

"Black and White," devoted to harmonious interracial relations, has gained a 10,000 state-wide circulation under the impetus given the magazine by Bishop W. Y. Bell, of the seventh district of the Colored Methodist Episcopal church.

The magazine states that its objective is to assit in establishing harmony in interracial relations by bettering racial unity and pride and by bettering interracial understanding.

The publication, issued monthly in Atlanta, displays unusual art work, and currently is featuring some city of the state in each of its editions. Augusta is the subject of the latest issue.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

RACE AND RUMORS OF RACE

By HOWARD W. ODUM.

"The Negroes had bought all available ice picks, guns, knives, etc., and were armed, waiting for the signal" . . . "Negro soldiers asking white women for dates." This book is concerned with 2,000 such inflammatory rumors, reported as a basis for discussing the peculiar problems of the South and the Negro in relation to the total war.

October 30. $2.00

8-1943

The Great South: Its Valor and Turbulences Explained

"THE FIGHTING SOUTH," by John Temple Graves. [Putnam, $2.75.]

Reviewed by Kenneth C. Kaufman.

Any book which helps explain one region of the United States to the rest is a good book. This one is the work of a southerner, a collateral descendant of John C. Calhoun, grandson of a Confederate general, son of a southern gentleman to whom chivalry and gentleness were a light to live by. But this southerner was educated in the north, worked on New York papers, served in World War I. and on the American peace commission, and later edited three southern newspapers. He is now a syndicated columnist on the Birmingham Age-Herald.

The Gallup poll of October, 1941, showed the country as a whole voting 70 to 30 for attacking Hitler; the south, 89 to 11. Voluntary enlistments of southern boys before selective service were strikingly higher than in other parts of the country. This fighting attitude is due, Mr. Graves believes, not so much to the oft discussed poverty of the south as to the tendency on the part of southerners to aspire to more wealth. It is also due to the fighting tradition, to the close bonds which have always linked the south with England, to an ideology of chivalry and valor, to the fact that the south has long been inured to danger and has carried a chip on its shoulder.

• • •

But this is no mere inquiry into why the spurs on the southern rooster are so sharp; it is a study of the south as the mirror, the focus of our entire national life. For the problem region of America is also the region of promise, the greatest reservoir of potential consumers we have. And more customers will be the crying need of American economics after the war. The social-economic health of the whole will depend upon the health of all its parts.

The south is a land of violent contrasts. Terrific energy prevails within shouting distance of Tobacco Road degeneracy. Southerners are touchy on the subject of race segregation [Mr. Graves calls it not an argument but a major premise], but they love Negroes; they are opposed to labor unions, but relations of employer and employé are most cordial; the south is definitely anti-fascist, yet fascistic organizations have flourished often. It makes a religion of lawfulness, yet lynchings frequently flout the essence of law.

• • •

Mr. Graves is calm and judicial on the race question. He quotes liberally from letters he has received assailing or upholding his stand, letters written by Negroes as well as whites. He quotes statistics to show that the lot of the black man has improved enormously within the last two decades.

The book is not an integrated whole; as a columnist, Mr. Graves finds grist in everything. He reminisces, tells anecdotes, talks politics, defends the beauty of the natural landscape as against the dirt dabbers, maintains the superiority of southern feminine pulchritude, makes gentle fun of southern foibles, urbanely demolishes national prejudices. On occasion he rises to lyrical heights and impassioned oratory. His prose is beautiful, clear, and resonant. He is a fair, seasoned, reasoned, well informed, courteous, and moving commentator. It will pay to listen to him.

PM
New York, N. Y

OPINION

APR 22 1943

The Color of America

It is not a pleasant subject that I want to write of today, but it is a chastening one. Carey McWilliams has written in his *Brothers Under the Skin* (Little, Brown $3) a book about some 17 million Americans who, in the words that O'Neill's *Hairy Ape* once used, don't belong. The large majority of them are Negroes. But the author has been wise enough to see that what we do to Negroes is part of what we do in the larger pattern to our Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Filipinos.

Common to them are the injustices we have done them. But it is true that they wear the common badge of our injustice on their faces, plain for all to see. The deeper roots out of which our hatred, fear, and exploitation of them spring are in their cases—as is not true of the whites we exploit—reinforced by the visible evidence of color.

The story is about the whole of America. The next time a Southern Congressman wants a book to read from in filibustering an anti-lynching bill, I recommend that he try this one. It may serve to enlighten the Southerners, but it will also have some home truths for their Northern and Western colleagues. For the larger pattern damns us all. It is a pattern of legal discrimination, economic degradation, psychological fear and hatred, social ostracism.

As I have read the book I have wondered about the age-old question of what makes us that way. Our answer of course would run in terms of innate evil and original sin. But while some inner drive is probably at the source of all social cruelties, it will not explain why we exclude the Chinese while they admire us, why we lynch the Negroes while the French and British manage to live with them, why we kick our Mexican workers around while at Monterrey Presidents Roosevelt and Avila Camacho clasped hands in unity.

APR 22 1943

I am even more convinced that, whatever the source of our social cruelties, the course they take depends on our broad structure of power, as shown in war and conquest and exploitation.

APR 22 1943

Let us look at the historical record. We conquered the Indians and took the country away from them before we set out systematically in the 1880s to uproot them from their culture. We enslaved the Negroes with physical chains before we sought to crush their spirit as freedmen. We imposed an economic imperialism by arms on the Chinese masses of the Far East before we shanghaied Chinese coolies to work for us, and then passed Exclusion Acts to keep them out. We beat the Mexicans in two wars before we drove them to live in the dismal slums of San Antonio. We won Hawaii and Puerto Rico as a result of our passage-at-arms with Spain.

What I suggest is that there is something at work here for which I can only find the clumsy term *psychic imperialism*. I think it is latent in all men. I think it is stronger where color differences are involved than where they are not. But I think that war and economic power then come in to rivet into our minds the fears and hatreds that surround the human spirit.

APR 22 1943

The present war is having curious effects. It has given us a new respect for the Filipinos because of their heroism against Japan, but, as McWilliams says, they are still "legally undesirable heroes" on the mainland. It has increased our friendliness toward the Chinese; but while California welcomed Madame Chiang it is still true that the Exclusion Acts, once passed at the insistence of California, stay unrepealed. It has increased the bitterness of the Negroes, and the tension between Negroes and whites both in South and North. It has created a new problem in the treatment of "our Japanese hostages." Finally, it has made it certain that we will hold on to Hawaii, and with it hold on to the most promising racial laboratory in our part of the world.

APR 22 1943

That the basic problem of internal social hatreds is growing, rather than waning, is shown by the fact that color is not the only test. The psychic imperialism of Americans has been extending increasingly to the hatred of the Jews as well. That is why I doubt that the author's suggestions—however admirable—for Federal legislative action to protect minority groups gives anything like the whole answer.

APR 22 1943

Legislation is fine. It is necessary, but it is not adequate. It can work only if some new outlets are found for the psychic imperialism of the dominant groups. We need another William James to suggest a "moral equivalent" not just for war but for social hatreds within a nation. I suspect that such a moral equivalent will not be found unless we get a working economic democracy, so that men can find an outlet for their aggressions in building the greatness of the nation as a whole.

APR 22 1943

One thing is clear. Tolerance is not enough. Legal equality is not enough. We shall never be content until those who talk of the problem cease to talk either as lawyers or humanitarians, and start talking as poets, artists, creators of a great culture to which each of these groups can contribute.

You cannot legislate for a nation of sawdust hearts.

APR 22 1943

MAX LERNER

(Tomorrow I shall have something to say of the psychic imperialism that has found expression in the report of the Kerr Committee and its attitude toward "subversive elements."—M. L.)

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

This Evening

By Charles N. Feidelson

APR 28 1943

"THE FIGHTING SOUTH"

As a salutation to a distinguished colleague who is wearing fresh laurels these days, I am indulging in the innovation of devoting this column to a review of John Temple Graves' book. Admirers will find in this author's *apologia pro sua vita*. Long ago he has just been published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The Fighting South, which has ample justification for their faith. For became a specialist in matters Southern problems, partly with his mental processes, his personal gratitude toward the Chinese; but while California welcomed Madame Chiang it is still true that the Exclusion Acts, once passed at the insistence of California, stay unrepealed. It has increased the bitterness of the Negroes, and the tension between Negroes and whites both in South and North. It has created a new problem in the treatment of "our Japanese hostages." Finally, it has made it certain that we will hold on to Hawaii, and with it hold on to the most promising racial laboratory in our part of the world.

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military ardor and inquired in the right quarters for opinions on the subject. Thus was provided the springboard, *The Fighting South*, from which the author leaps to breast the waves of his *weltanschauung*. His running account of reactions to the war and our going to war is a fine evocation of moments which for most of us are already lost in the being of the eternal silence.

APR 28 1943

Mr. Graves does not wish to be thought of as serving a provincial muse. He insists that what is happening in the South and what will happen to it has a large significance. He is glad to toy with a microcosm if it be understood that he is fully aware of greater dimensions. By the same token, he picks flaws in his beloved South, but only on the assumption that the wounds of a devotee are dear. On a somewhat similar level, he warns social and economic reactionaries, but in a way to indicate that he is made even unhappier by people on the left. He is more distrustful of radicals than of bourbons, and has a way of excommunicating both with the short if not always simple device of coining a slogan and repeating it.

APR 28 1943

What he has to say on regional politics and on the Negro question offers nothing new to those who have followed him since he has been in Alabama. He speaks to a different audience in this book, and what he says is likely to prove more provocative in these circumstances. He is on the side of the angels when he argues for a real party system in the South, for a break with a traditional loyalty which may be a form of self-immolation. Also he will have nothing to do with injustice directed against the Negro. But it is doubtful whether, with all his desire to help and improve, Mr. Graves has been able to divest himself of the patrician's limitations when facing up to this blood-and-sweat problem.

APR 28 1943

That word *patrician* probably sums up the strength and weakness of the book. At the moment, a reviewer prefers to dwell on the grace, elan, articulateness, poetic imagination and durable affections of Mr. Graves' performance. If it does not meet the needs of a proletarian world, it is nevertheless relief from the daily budget of death and horror. If it finds more comfort than most of us can in harking back to a tender past, if it is so considerably the work of a gentleman at home and at ease in a world of his own imagining, it remains enjoyable because of its recapture of a manner, an approach, a confrontation so mellow and so nostalgic. What has ideology or even economics to do with souvenirs of the spirit, pleasant yet mournful to the soul, bound up with "the touch of a vanished hand, the sound of a voice that is still"?

But the voice is not still. Mr. Graves has dropped the numeral which once distinguished him from his father. But anyone who remembers the elder Graves, the shape of his sentences, the color of his words, his fondness for allusions, his gift of eloquence, will find in *The Fighting South* a startling likeness and renewal. The Atlanta editor's soul goes marching on in the freshly appareled opinions of the Birmingham columnist. *Patris est filius.*

APR 28 1943

The Fighting South is, after all, the old South, gay as a Cavalier's song, stern with a Roundhead's zeal, lovable even in its wrath, revealing infinite felicities of self-expression, clinging to ideas rather than evolving or shaping them, strong with all the power of the human heart, yet strangely unequal to the task of grappling with the challenges of a new dawn, the emerging demands of a changing society. This book gives you the thrill which the dashing Stuart brought and the sense of conviction which Calhoun had. And that is enough—particularly when it is John Temple Graves who is repeating in effect the words of Marco Bozzaris:

APR 28 1943

Strike—for your altars and your fires!
Strike—for the green graves of your sires!
God, and your native land!

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

HANDY TO BRING OUT SONG BOOK TEACHING NEGRO HISTORY

FEB 18 1943

New York (AP)—A new volume entitled, "Unsung Americans—Sung," designed to teach Negro history by singing of the lives of prominent racial leaders, is scheduled for early release by Handy Brothers Music company, it was announced last week.

Collaborating with William C. Handy on the music is Jean Stor, composer. Latest song written for the volume is a tribute to the late Dr. George Washington Carver with lyrics by Andy Razaf and music by Jean Stor.

FEB 18 1943

The firm has also prepared a musical setting for Lincoln's Gettysburg address which Mr. Handy labels "the biggest work we have done in years."

The new books expected to be especially valuable during annual observances of Negro History week and Negro Music week.

The First Reader

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
August 14, 1943

By Harry Hansen

A Story of American Negroes

Harlem is a city of 125,000 people who were not born with what is erroneously called a white skin. They have all shades, from coffee to coal, and they come from the ends of the earth. They are increasingly determined to gain the objects of their strategy, which are: complete equality with white Americans in jobs, housing, access to hotels, restaurants, theatres and public office. Every big crisis such as the war, is their opportunity to move one step forward. That is why Roi Ottley calls his excellent survey of their society "New World A-Coming," a book in that valuable Life-in-America series of the Houghton, Miffin Co. ($3).

We call them Negroes—but what an extraordinary diversification goes on among them. As Ottley records, only a few are really full-blooded black men, and they are "regarded with a good deal of awe." Some Harlemites have mated with Indian women from the Shinnecock reservation on Long Island; in fact the Negro is absorbing the "vanishing American." About 30,000 have piled in from the West Indies, and are they mixed! They are part Portuguese, East Indian and Chinese. They are so pro-British that they re-enacted the coronation of George VI in a Harlem ballroom in the presence of Sir . General Campbell, Lady Campbell and his consular staff.

They are Pullman porters, white collar workers, menial laborers, Phi Beta Kappa scholars. They include the lost tribe of Israel known as the Black Jews, who hail from Abyssinia, have a synagogue all their own and are "certified kosher cooks" for orthodox Jewish families only.

They are split into layers of society—the "respectable old families," who look down on the intellectual upstarts; the cafe-aulait society of artists, musicians and night club people; the professional class that lives on Sugar Hill in apartments with penthouses and liveried servants . . . and the forlorn thousands packed into rickety tenements, who have only one hospital in illnes, who lack playgrounds and the simplest sanitary decencies.

* * *

Leaders of Color

Here is something unique, a book that might be clasified as a social study, actually so entertaining that it reads like a novel. Roi Ottley, records the antics of Father Divine, but explains that his success among the poor is based on his ability to be a good provider. He recalls how Madame C. J. Walker, who invented the permanent wave in reverse, was a St. Louis laundress when she dreamed her invention, and how her daughter became the great spender and entertainer of celebrities in her Dark Tower.

But he also tells how the race is slowly moving toward its goal of equality through leadership. The fight for equality is going forward in many places. There is the "black cabinet" in Washington, highly intelligent Negroes who push the "delicate task of negotiating further gains." Thorugh them, says Mr. Ottley, the Negro carries on his right to petition the government. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Secretary Ickes are known as champions of the Negro.

Prominent leaders are Walter A. White and A. Philips Randolph, the latter the eloquent organizer of the sleeping car porters. The younger intellectuals have followed W. E. B. duBois' program, but many have turned radical. Though the Communist party has lost ground since the war began, Mr. Ottley finds that it awoke many Negroes to the importance of racial improvement by its efforts to break down color barriers.

* * *

Of International Importance

The Negro, says Mr. Ottley, "stands at the door of a fretful future." The white man is similarly troubled. For the color problem is no longer an American problem alone. It now includes the attitude of the white rulers toward the brown and yellow men of the Far East. The white men profess to believe that all men are created equal and have guaranteed this equality toward their colored citizens. When the Negroes heard about democracy in the last war they took it seriously. Now they are aggressive, "for the Negro feels that the day for tlaking quietly has passed."

Mr. Ottley does not look for the removal overnight of barriers and attitudes that have existed for many decades. But he does hope for economic and educational relief and thinks President Roosevelt can help bring this about. This would not only include a lifting of barriers in industry but in the Army and the Navy. The threat of the march on Washington was a work of "statesmanship" by Mr. Randolph and Walter White, says Mr. Ottley, for it resulted in Eecutive Order 8802, which established the Committee on Fair Employment Practices. But there is fear that Southern Democrats will hamstring the committee.

Despite the Negro's grievances against his white fellow-citizens and against "the almost insurmountable prejudice of employers and backward labor unions" he has no truck with Hitlerism. Negroes are aware that they will stand and fall with Americanism. Their hope is for more democracy, not less.

Methodist Minister's Book To Be Issued Soon

Pittsburgh Courier

History Of 100 Year Old Churches Wanted

PASADENA, Cal., June 10—Bishop R. R. Wright, executive secretary of the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches and editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of the Negro Church, is compiling a history of 100 year old Negro churches in the United States, and will publish it in book form, it was announced here today by the Rev. Karl E. Downs, pastor of the Scott Methodist church, where Bishop Wright will speak tonight.

Bishop Wright, who has already written a history of the Methodist church, is asking all churches and individuals to make its appearance in book stores and stands throughout the country in the near future. According to critics who have previewed the work, it may well prove to be the book of the year.

Contained in "Meet the Negro" is an introduction by the world famous evangelist, Stanley E. Jones; a foreword by James McGiffin, acting executive secretary of the Methodist board of education; and an introduction by Bishop Wright, who is also author of the 60 or more individual pen and ink facsimile sketches by the noted artist, Calvin Bailey; individual biographical sketches of some achieving Negroes who have made random contributions to the source materials of the Negro Church, and basic steps in building a democratic world.

The book's author received his B. D. at Gammon Thelogical seminary, St. M. at Boston university, did post-graduate work at the University of Southern California, and is an ordained minister of the Methodist church.

Cal June 10—a positive pictures of Meet the Negro," a tenth man by the Dr. Stanley E. Jones in India.

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THE New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Darker Brother

SEP 27 194

A Novel by
BUCKLIN MOON

THE DARKER BROTHER is a love story—a love story as simple and moving as some of the great love stories in our language. It is the story of Ben and Birdie—Ben who searched for happiness in a white man's world; Birdie who searched with him.

THE DARKER BROTHER is a story about Negroes, and after you've read it you'll never think of them again as a blur of faces along the roadside. For in this time of change and liberation, their new day is coming. You will see that more clearly when you've read THE DARKER BROTHER.

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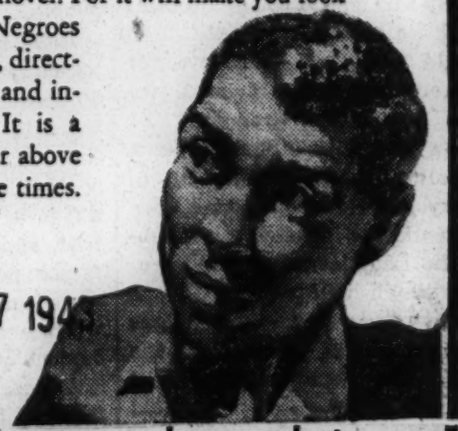

At your bookseller's

$2.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

"If you really want to know what caused the Harlem riot, read this book. Beautifully written, magnificently and brutally honest. If you have the courage to read it, you'll never be able to be complacent about the so-called race question again."

—WALTER WHITE

The First Reader

World-Telegram New York, N. Y.

By HARRY HANSEN

Why Harlem's Negroes Hope for That 'New World A-Coming, Is Revealed In Roi Ottley's Excellent Survey

Harlem, no doubt, is the most fascinating melting pot in the world. It is a city of 125,000 people who were not born with what is erroneously called a white skin. They have all shades, from coffee to coal, and they come from the ends of the earth. They are increasingly determined to gain the objects of their strategy, which are: complete equality with white Americans in jobs, housing, access to hotels, restaurants, theaters and public office. Every big crisis, such as the war, is their opportunity to move one step forward. That is why Roi Ottley calls his excellent survey of their society **New World A-Coming**, a book in that valuable Life-in-America series of the Houghton, Mifflin Co. ($3).

We call them Negroes—but what an extraordinary diversification goes on among them. As Ottley records, only a few are really full-blooded black men, and they are "regarded with a good deal of awe." Some Harlemites have mated with Indian women from the Shinnecock reservation on Long Island; in fact the Negro is absorbing the "vanishing American." About 30,000 have piled in from the West Indies, and are they mixed! They are part Portuguese, East Indian and Chinese. They are so pro-British that they re-enacted the coronation of George VI in a Harlem ballroom in the presence of Sir Gerald Campbell, Lady Campbell and his consular staff.

They are Pullman porters, white collar workers, menial laborers, Phi Beta Kappa scholars. They are mixed with 250,000 Spaniards that you can't tell white from black. They include the lost tribe of Israel known as the Black Jews, who hail from Abyssinia, have a synagogue all their own and are "certified kosher cooks" for orthodox Jewish families only.

They are split into layers of society—the "respectable old families," who look down on the intellectual upstarts; the cafe-au-lait society of artists, musicians and night club people; the professional class that lives on Sugar Hill in apartments with penthouses and liveried servants . . . and the forlorn thousands packed into rickety tenements, who have only one hospital in illness, who lack playgrounds and the simplest sanitary decencies.

Leaders of Negro

Here is something unique, a book that might be classified as a social study, actually so entertaining that it reads like a novel. In other words, an accomplished piece of journalism. Roi Ottley sees all sides of his topic. He records the antics of Father Divine, but explains that his success among the poor is based on his ability to be a good provider. He recalls how Madame C. J. Walker, who invented the permanent wave in reverse, was a St. Louis laundress when she dreamed her invention, and how her daughter became the great spender and entertainer of celebrities in her Dark Tower.

But he also tells how the race is slowly moving toward its goal of equality through leadership. This fight for equality is going forward in many places. There is the "black cabinet" in Washington, highly intelligent Negroes who push the "delicate task of negotiating further gains." Through them, says Mr. Ottley, the Negro carries on his right to petition the government. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Secretary Ickes are known as champions of the Negro.

Prominent leaders are Walter A. White and A. Philip Randolph, the latter the eloquent organizer of the sleeping car porters. The younger intellectuals have followed W. E. B. DuBois' program, but many have turned radical. Though the Communist party has lost ground since the war began, Mr. Ottley finds that it awoke many Negroes to the importance of racial improvement by its efforts to break down color barriers. Mr. Randolph believes that Negroes can make social gains in periods of upheaval, of which this is one. He was the organizer of the proposed March on Washington.

Of International Importance

The Negro, says Mr. Ottley, "stands at the door of a fretful future." The white man is similarly troubled. For the color problem is no longer an American problem alone. It now includes the attitude of the white rulers toward the brown and yellow men of the Far East. The white men profess to believe that all men are created equal and have guaranteed this equality toward their colored citizens. When the Negroes heard about democracy in the last war they took it seriously. Now they are aggressive, "for the Negro feels that the day for talking quietly has passed."

Mr. Ottley does not look for the removal overnight of barriers and attitudes that have existed for many decades. But he does hope for economic and educational relief and thinks President Roosevelt can help bring this about. This would not only include a lifting of barriers in industry but in the Army and the Navy. The threat of the march on Washington was a work of "statesmanship" by Mr. Randolph and Walter White, says Mr. Ottley, for it resulted in Executive Order 8802, which established the Committee on Fair Employment Practices. But there is fear that Southern Democrats will hamstring the committee.

Despite the Negro's grievances against his white fellow-citizens and against "the almost insurmountable prejudice of employers and backward labor unions" he has no truck with Hitlerism. Negroes are aware that they will stand and fall with Americanism. Their hope is for more democracy, not less. And Roi Ottley deserves thanks for making the issue so clear in his honest, straightforward, dispassionate book, a work that every one of us whose tan is only skin-deep ought to read.

A New Kind of Juvenile

New Republic New York, N. Y.

Keystone Kids, by John R. Tunis. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. 209 pages. $2.

SEP 13 1943

RECENTLY, Daddy Warbucks told his sanctimonious gamine, Little Orphan Annie, "We're *not* fighting for a new world, Annie—not for a new world for *Americans*—we're fighting for the world we've grown up in and prospered in—for our *old* world of *free* America." The number of children (and adults) before whom this brazen hooey is paraded by the Patterson-McCormick newspaper axis is legion, for reactionaries have recruited even the comics to get their message across to American youth. Liberals, on the other hand, are virtually lacking mass media for counter-propaganda. But Tunis is waging a successful campaign on a relatively smaller scale to pose fundamental issues in young readers' minds. Twice before—in "Duke Decides" and "All American"—he told sports stories that put down the hard, tough facts of getting along in a democracy. Now he does it again, dramatically and trenchantly.

"Keystone Kids" is a baseball story, the tale of two inseparable orphaned brothers who are a sensation on the field because of their mastery of the game. The story is harsh and disillusioning, for it strips the glamor from big-league baseball. It shows how utterly ruthless, selfish and heartless professional athletes can be, how they have no interest in the game *qua* game and how they resent anyone who does. Yet, it is more than the mere narrative of what two open-eyed youngsters [illegible] when they reach the top [illegible] on sincerity and merits of ability. For as success comes, there arises a circumstance which not only threatens the

the Jewish teammate. On the issue of whether a Jew shall remain on the team, morale is shattered.

In his untutored way, Spike tries to comprehend this complex development. Klein is a superb athlete, beautifully proportioned, graceful, alert, strong, intelligent. He plays top-flight baseball until the sadistic "ride" begins. Then he flusters and bungles, misses easy plays, becomes harassed and confused at crucial moments, appears awkward. And the men brand him yellow.

Spike finally decides to talk with Klein to see what can be done to reëstablish unity among the team. And slowly, at first hesitantly, flow the words from the strapping Jewish boy. Suddenly it is all out: the tragedy of the Jew, the 2,000 years of relentless hounding, the things which set Klein apart from the others.

Tunis could have left it there. But his understanding of the entire question of anti-Semitism is far too acute. "Now see," Spike tells Klein, "you say like this: I'll never be any good on account I'm Jewish. They realize you feel that way. They know it." Therefore, the ride. "Once they see you're a scrapper, they'll be for you all the way. You wait and see."

Then waiting for his opportunity when Klein is not around, Spike tells his team: "There's one player on this club you haven't been behind. . . . You think he's yeller, so you don't give him support on the field. . . . He's fighting what all of us who aren't Jews have done to all those who are, not just right now, not right here, but for so far back you wouldn't understand. . . ."

Tunis believes two things. First, the writer need not write down for his audience, not even a young audience. Second, if a writer has something to say, he must say it in a medium his audience will understand. Anti-Semitism and its solution is a knotty, uncomfortable problem. But if it can be presented in terms of teamwork, the young mind can see how patently unjust discrimination is.

He is indeed bold to tempt young people with such provocative ideas. "All American," in which the high-school children stage a sitdown over anti-Negro prejudice which prevents the Negro end on their football team from playing in an intersectional game, librarians in one large city said: "Children mustn't be confronted with such problems." Doubtless, the same librarians may try to keep this story from the young reading audience.

Time was when writers of juvenile fiction could duck from truth down an alley of appearance. Fantasy is one thing; distortion is another. The fact that Tunis can present everyday problems of a working democracy and be financially successful also, should provide impetus for other writers of juvenile fiction. The growing generation needs more books of this kind.

ARTHUR HEPNER

Negro Author Is Winner Of 1943 Mayflower Cup

Raleigh, N. C. News & Observer December 3,

J. Saunders Redding, College Professor, Is First Negro To Win Award Cup

By JANE HALL

For the first time in the 13-year history of the Mayflower Cup competition, a Negro—J. Saunders Redding, former member of the faculty at Elizabeth City State Teachers College—has been adjudged the winner. "No Day of Triumph" is the title of the volume chosen best among the 29 books considered.

The cup is awarded annually for the book chosen as best of those published during the year and written by a resident of North Carolina.

M. R. Dunnagan, member of the Mayflower Society, made the cup presentation to Redding, now a member of the faculty at Hampton Institute, at ceremonies at the final session of the State Literary and Historical Association, held last night at the Sir Walter.

Board of Award.

The 1943 Mayflower Cup Board of Award was composed of President Paul Green of the State Literary and Historical Association; Mrs. Ford Worthy and John G. Bragaw, both of Washington, N. C.; and Dr. Alex M. Arnett and Dr. Winfield H. Rogers, both of the faculty of Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. The award is made by the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Last night's session ended the annual two-day program of meetings of five of North Carolina's cultural societies—the State Art Society, the Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, the Folk Lore Society, the Archaeological Society, and the State Literary and Historical Association.

Dabney, Green Speak.

Principal speakers on last night's program were Virginius Dabney of Richmond, Va., editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and President Paul Green. Dabney, an eminent authority on the race problem, spoke on the subject, "Race: The South's Problem Number 1."

The Virginia editor and author, who has worked for some time in the field of interracial relations, asserted that the race problem "is the South's," and as such its solution should be left in Southern hands. By every circumstance, the South is the logical section of the country to solve this pressing minority problem, Dabney said.

President Paul Green gave an address entitled "North Carolina Progress." Green spoke informally, tracing the recent cultural developments in the State, and foreseeing a period of tremendous growth in the post-war world.

The final session ended with a reception for members and guests of the association and allied societies.

1944 Officers.

At the morning meeting yesterday, members of the association elected officers to serve in 1944. Those elected were Dr. Hubert M. Poteat of Wake Forest, president; Dr. F. W. Johnson of Davidson, first vice-president; Mrs. Inglis Fletcher of Wilmington, second vice-president; and Dr. Charles Lee Smith of Raleigh, third vice-president. Dr. C. C. Crittenden of Raleigh was reelected secretary-treasurer. The slate of officers was presented by Mrs. Charles Cannon of Concord, chairman of the nominating committee.

J. Saunders Redding, the 1943 winner of the Mayflower Cup, is a native of Wilmington, Del. As a youth he attended the Wilmington pubilc schools, and then went to Lincoln University for a year. Later he transferred to Brown University, and he received his degree from that institution.

From 1938 until 1943, Redding taught English at the Elizabeth City State Teachers College. Last spring he went to Hampton Institute at Hampton, Va., as assistant professor of English.

"A Remarkable Book."

In reviewing at yesterday morning's session the 29 books considered by the board of award, Mrs. Worthy termed Redding's winning volume "a remarkable book."

"The stories in the book reveal every phase of the Negro's social and economic problems," Mrs. Worthy said in her review to the members. "They are threaded on the string of a motor trip taken by the author. The book is a masterly exposition of America's No. 1 minority problem, and I commend it to your most serious attention."

Inglis Fletcher, author of "Raleigh's Eden" and "Men of Albemarle" spoke on the subject, "The Function of the Historical Novel" at yesterday morning's session. President Paul Green presided.

"The real reason for writing a historical novel is to make people feel that their history is important, and that they must go back to it in order to understand and properly evaluate what is happening today," Mrs. Fletcher declared. "We must be familiar with history if we would see things in balance. If a historical novel with a degree of accuracy leads people to read their real history with interest, then it has achieved its purpose."

An explanation of the plan now in operation for the preservation of World War II records was given by Charlie Huss, collector of records of the State Department of Archives and Histroy. Miss Huss also is assistant coordinator of War Records. The coordinator said that collectors have been appointed in each of the State's 100 counties, and that 236 assistant collectors have been appointed. She proudly reported that approximately 50,000 items have been received for the State's archives. By the time the war ends, Miss Huss said, State officials hope that North Carolina will have the best collection of records in the nation.

The morning session ended with the election of officers and the reports of committees.

THE DARKER BROTHER, *a novel of present-day Negro life, by Bucklin Moon* (Doubleday, Doran). PM New York, N. Y. SEP 26 1943

[Ben, a Negro boy from the South, has just had his first morning in a school outside Harlem, to which his rich uncle Rafe has sent him. The teacher, Miss Callahan, has welcomed Ben and talked to the class about Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation.]

Once he was outside he felt again the overpowering loneliness. . . . Before long, three boys came over and began to talk to him.

"You want to come over in the park?" the tallest of the three asked.

"We got time."

"It's just down the street a little way. Come on."

He hurriedly followed them, not saying much because of his bashfulness, but so content to be with them he could have shouted. . . . He climbed down after them over the rocks. . . .

"How do you like it?"

"Hit good."

"You better like it," the tallest one said. "It's too damn good for you, anyway."

"What 'yuh mean?" Ben asked, bewildered.

"You know what I mean. It's too damned good for a nigger."

He looked up, and what he saw had come so quickly that it frightened him. . . .

"Why don't you stay where you belong? They got schools in Harlem. You better stay in your own part of town if you know what's good for you."

"I doan have tuh," he said softly. His voice seemed loud in his ears, but he knew it wasn't. "My uncle Rafe say I kin come."

"We don't care what your uncle says. He's a nigger, too, isn't he? The trouble is you act like this is the Promised Land."

"Teacher say she glad I come," he said defensively.

"You dumb bastard. You can't even talk right. You sound like Amos and Andy. Here, maybe you can understand this."

He saw the cocked fist shoot out, and he felt the blow land across his mouth, feeling also the sudden, warm taste of blood in his mouth. . . . Suddenly he heard them calling to him from halfway up the rocks. . . .

"You better not say anything about this if you know what's good for you. Some schools like niggers, but we don't. You come back, and you'll get the same thing only worse."

He watched the three of them climbing until they were out of sight. . . . The only thing he could think of was to get home to Mama as soon as possible. Miss Callahan no longer mattered, nor Uncle Rafe, not even Abraham Lincoln.

He was lost in the Promised Land.

8-1943

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, P

The New Encyclopaedia OF THE African Methodist Episcopal Church

FEB 18 1943

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For further information, write
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NMU Tells of Winning Fight on Jim Crowism

PM N.Y. N.Y.

APR 2 1943

The progress of the Negro on shipboard, from the days when he was lucky to get a job as a mess attendant to the present, when a Negro skipper commands a Liberty ship, is told in a pamphlet just published by the National Maritime Union.

The pamphlet is entitled *NMU Fights Jim Crow*, and goes into case histories of employers who tried every ruse to avoid hiring Negroes. The climax of the long battle came on Sept. 23, 1942, when Hugh Mulzac was appointed as master of the freighter Booker T. Washington.

In a foreword Joseph Curran, NMU president, says:

APR 2 1943

"We are proud of the fact that our union was one of six groups chosen in a nation-wide poll to determine who had done the most for the improvement of race relations."

Victory--and After' Reviewed By Wide Sections of the Press

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

APR 9 1943

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following is a third installment of excerpts from reviews of Earl Browder's "Victory—and After," of which International Publishers report that about 225,000 copies have been sold since its publication last November.

COURIER-JOURNAL
(Louisville, Ky.)

Mr. Browder, former Communist candidate for President, gives the "official" Communist interpretation of the war. His purpose is to disprove that "Communism is a menace," an idea which Joseph E. Davies says "helps Hitler's cause, not ours." Whatever one may think about Communists, one must at least give them the credit for seeing the menace of Hitler as far back as 1935, when Britain and America still were playing the appeasement game. And one must admire the Russian Communists today for what they are doing to end that menace.

Russia was in grave danger when this book was written; we cannot question the sincerity of its appeal for national and international unity against Nazism.

TIMES DISPATCH
(Richmond, Va.)

APR 9 1943

In his work, Browder, the spokesman for the Communists in the United States, who was released recently from Atlanta prison by President Roosevelt as a measure of "national unity," discusses the nature of the war, the problems arising out of the war, the relations of various political parties to national unity and the conditions required for victory and what to do with victory when we have it.

Foremost among the problems seen by the author is this:

". . . whether or not the collaboration set up for the war, in the United Nations, can be continued and extended after the war is to deal collectively with the problems of economic and political reconstruction of the world. Upon the answer to this question depends all further determination of the character of the post-war world."

KANSAS CITY STAR (Mo.)

According to the leader of American Communists, released some months ago from the Atlanta penitentiary, the ideal setup for a victorious war program would be a full centralization of authority for production, with a larger part for labor in it, and complete over-all planning both for the war and the post-war period. This, Browder says, "would be a capitalist economy, in fact, the highest development of capitalism." But "to those who protest that it is state capitalism, the answer is that state capitalism

recognized and deplored by persons of all economic and social theories. And we shall at least agree with Mr. Browder in this that the answer to these problems must be found if after "Victory" we are to build the "brave new world" of which we dream.

APR 9 1943

CHRONICLE (Augusta, Ga.)

In a book that deals rather thoroughly—if though it seems naturally biased—with the formulas of the Communist Party, Earl Browder, regarded by many as America's No. 1 Communist agitator, sets forth a plan for a centralized national administration of economy for speeding the war effort and at the same time a plan for control of the distribution and organization of labor in such a way that post-war economic problems should be able to take care of themselves.

A large part of the book—due to the swift changes of recent war developments—deals with recapitulation of our first early dark war days and the national economic policies that should best relieve bottlenecks and get production to highest peak.

The central problem of the post-war period, the author sets out is whether or not the collaboration set up for the war in the United Nations will continue. If it does, he predicts a rapid healing of the terrible wounds of war and great strides forward in attaining for all peoples those goals of cultural and economic advancement indicated in the Atlantic Charter. Without it, the world won't be such a pleasant place to live.

APR 9 1943

For almost two pages he excoriates Georgia as being stupid and venal in its administration of public life. He emphasized Governor Talmadge's "purge" of the state university system, with no intimation that Georgia itself might have resented such a thing. "All America, outside the 'solid South'," he said, "was shocked by this move." Talmadge, he set out as dealing with a rod of iron, bold and frank in medieval practices. And such avers Mr. Browder, is the foundation for politics in the "solid South."

APR 9 1943

Earl Browder, recently freed from Atlanta as a measure of national unity, is the authorized spokesman of the Communist Party in America. His "Victory—and After" is a temperate exposition of the Marxian attitude toward the war and its problems.

The whole Communist philosophy seems to be summed up in Mr. Browder's disposal of the view that the coming peace will be followed by a great drop in national income and serious unemployment. He cannot agree with this "defeatist" view. It is unrealistic and futile, and the American people will never accept it.

APR.9 .1943

DEFENDER (Louisville, Ky.)

Earl Browder undertakes a scientific examination into the cause of the war and its character.

Browder shows what national unity must mean in the expansion of our democracy.

He treats the Negro question in a manner that no other political figure in our country has had the courage to do. He shows what war economy means; how peace economy is transformed into war economy. He reveals how every man, woman and youth, every factory and every institution can be put to war use. He explains how anything less means disaster.

This means that war economy will and must give work to every Negro according to his ability. This will not come of itself but can be successfully fought for.

The author exposes the changing relation of social forces in America which is bringing new allies to the Negro people out of our common interest and cause. Africa is brought forward as a great source of natural and human resources and the changes which must be made of the black men in Africa into free men must be done carefully and fearlessly.

"Victory—and After" is a monumental contribution to victory and the post-war peace.

APR 9 1943

ENQUIRER (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Outlining the attitude of the Communist Party in the United States, Earl Browder, its American leader, terms the present conflict a "People's War for National Liberation" from the standpoint of the United Nations and declares that the Axis forces are battling for the "Hitler Policy of Universal Enslavement." He says we are fighting not to make a better world, but to keep this one from becoming completely intolerable. He states that the length of the war depends upon maintaining unity within the nation, developing solidarity with our allies and the full mobilization of American industry. The Communist Party in America has subordinated its own ideas as to the best possible economic and social system in order to contribute to national unity, he declares. The future of the world depends upon the same United Nations collaboration in peace that is now in force during the war. A provocative book.

APR 9 1943

New York Times
New York, N. Y

Famous Americans

TWENTY MODERN AMERICANS. By Alice Cecilia Cooper and Charles A. Palmer. Illustrated by Cameron Wright. 381 pp. New York; Harcourt, Brace & Co. $2.

IT'S a long jump from the homely wisdom of a Will Rogers to the scholarly opinions of a Chief Justice Holmes; from the antics of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse to the life-saving miracles of the Mayo brothers; from the tennis court triumphs of Helen Wills to Jane Addams's Hull House. Yet the lives of these twenty modern Americans illustrate something more than the diversity of opportunity offered in this spacious time and land. They furnish, indeed, a kind of collective criterion of success not measured crassly in dollars or power but in terms of achievement.

4-25-43

Not all of them, it is true, have worked as selflessly as did Dr. George Washington Carver, or with such singleness of purpose as Yehudi Menuhin, or with the far vision of Admiral Byrd, but each one found the joy of accomplishment in the field which he or she chose. "All of these people," say the authors in their preface, "knew what they wanted." Which doesn't mean that each had his own set goal in view from the beginning, for horizons widen with doing, but rather that they discovered early the *kind* of things they wanted to do and did them. 4-25-43

So here are the Martin Johnsons recording, at the risk of their lives, a vanishing people or a pride of lions; Dr. Beebe enjoying himself hugely in his bathysphere; J. Edgar Hoover convincing the public that gangsters are not romantic heroes and that crime actually does not pay; Vice President Wallace traveling a farmer's road to Washington; Pearl Buck interpreting the Orient in human terms to the West. These crisply written sketches are more than good reading about famous people; they are a stimulating challenge to seek the kind of life which offers the most reward in the pleasure of a job well done.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

New Books With Material By Negro Writers

APR 23 1943

NEW YORK, April 8—(ANP)—Among the new pocket books now on the newsstands, two contain material by Negro writers, while several Negro writers are represented in the "Pocket Book of Quotations." The "Pocket Book of America" contains the Langston Hughes poem, "Let America Be America Again." Also the recently published "Spiritual Almanac for Service Men", issued by the Christian commission for camp and defense communities, contains quotations from Dunbar, Hughes and Leslie Pinckney Hill.

Jim Tully's latest book, a collection of personality sketches, has a chapter devoted to Henry Armstrong, and the visit which he and Langston Hughes had with William Tully in Hollywood. The book also contains sketches of Charlie Chaplain, Jack Dempsey, Walter Winchell and other famous Americans.

APR 23 1943

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Pre-Civil War Days

MAY 11 1943

THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN 1860; by Edgar W Martin. University of Chicago Press. $4.50.

MAY 11 1943

DR. MARTIN'S orderly and sober presentation of the results of his very considerable researches results in a distinctly valuable book. Errors are exceedingly rare—the American Colonization Society was founded in 1816, not 1817, and its inclusion within a chapter devoted to charitable endeavors indicates a misinterpretation of the organization's function; and draping quotation marks around the words gentlemen and ladies when applying them to Negroes demonstrates bad taste, at least.

The book is unique in its exhaustive treatment of a subject that has been too little investigated; namely, exactly what did people, of all groups, eat, wear, read, enjoy, produce, how did they travel, communicate, what charitable and governmental aids existed? Dr. Martin's work provides the available answers, and his investigations are so conscientious that he does not hesitate to express the numerous doubts and uncertainties, and to indicate the voids that must face a historical statistician of American pre-Civil War days. The book's value is further enhanced by an appendix filled with excellent tables on such vital matters as wage and price levels, length of the working day, and standards of living. A bibliography, however, might well have been included.

MAY 11 1943

The work should be known to, and within easy reach of, every historian.

HERBERT APTHEKER.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

Worthy Objective

Gadsden, Ala., Times
June 28, 1943

A little monthly magazine has been launched at Tuskegee Institute by the Booker T. Washington Publishing Company. It is called "Pulling Together," and the title fits the purpose of the editors, which is to foster better understanding and greater cooperation between the races in the South.

In the initial issue, some space is given to the race problem but it is discussed in good temper, without the slightest attempt to stir prejudices or passions, and the sane Booker Washington tradition is followed throughout.

In reading this excellent publication one is again impressed with the thought that, left alone, the people of the South, white and black, will work out their problems much more speedily and much more satisfactorily than when "assisted" by zealots from the outside who have no understanding of these problems and who, too often, are inspired by selfish or ignoble designs.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn., Courtroll Digest
May 9, 1943

Guide Explores Race Relations

"A Guide to Information About the Negro and Negro-White Adjustment" has just been compiled by a Memphian, Marguerite E. Bicknell, who is Professor of Sociology at LeMoyne College. Her collaborator was Margaret C. McCulloch of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ.

The aim of this booklet is to indicate the most important reading matter on the subject, as well as the libraries, foundations, societies, and agencies concerned with the study of race relations, to aid in the study of this field.

Modern Negro Art. By James A. Porter. Dryden Press. $3.50.

The Race Question and the Negro. By John La Farge, S.J. Longmans, Green. $2.50.

8-1943

Embree Finds Negroes Making Steady Advance In Study Just Published

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

CHICAGO—(A N P)—"Brown America" by Edwin R. Embree, preident of the Julius Rosenwald fund, issued Friday by the Viking Press, New York City. It is a newly written statement based to some extent on material used by the same author in "Brown America" which has been a standard work on Negroes since it was published in 1931.

Commenting on the recent progress of Negroes, Mr. Embree says:

"The growth of this race is one of the bright episodes in the history of mankind. In three brief generations it has climbed from the utter dependence of slavery to a high place in many phases of modern civilization. It is now building swiftly on the slowly laid foundations of the earlier decades of freedom.

"Negro literacy has jumped from the 5 per cent of slavery days to over 90 percent—well above the literacy of the whole populations of any but the people of a few favored nations. And its education has gone far beyond the rudiments. Nearly 50,000 Negroes are in colleges and universities today, three times as many as when I wrote 12 years ago. During the past six years, 24,000 Negroes have been graduated from college more than had been graduated during all the previous centuries of the life of this new race in the New World.

"The Negro death rate, while still higher than it need be with modern medicine and sanitation, has been cut in half during the past 50 years and now compares favorably with the rates in such countries as France or Italy.

"Negroes have become a solid part of the labor movement. Their union enrollment is five times that of 12 years ago. While still underemployed and kept for the most part in the lower posts, their surge into jobs of all sorts during the war emergency has given them new economic footholds, some of which they will certainly keep.

"Migrations have brought one-fourth of the race to the north and west where they have fuller rights and freer opportunities. And this movement, still in full flow, will continue to distribute them more equitably throughout the whole country. Their votes in their new homes give them a balance of power in many important states and thus a strong influence in the policies of the nation. Their opinions and demands are now strongly voiced in national associations and in over two hundred of their own newspapers. While the masses in the south still know few of the boons of democracy, the higher standing of the three million northern Negroes is steadily changing attitudes toward the race as a whole.

"The rise of the Brown Americans is a part of the general upsurge of colored peoples the world over. We do not yet see the shift that is taking place. A 'cultural lag' runs throughout all human history, a delay between changes and our adaptation to them. That lag is conspicuous and may become tragic in the attitudes that the white nations still hold toward the colored peoples. If we persist in our arrogant attempt to rule and exploit all darker groups, they will rise up in a world rebelion that may wipe out white civilization.

"Diverse peoples must learn to live together happily and effectively in this rapidly shrinking world. This means the granting of equitable opportunities; a free exchange of goods and ideas; the right of diverse peoples to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Weekly Review
Birmingham, Ala.

"Brown America" By Embree, Off Press: Author Comments

CHICAGO, Oct., (ANP) — "Brown America" by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, issued Friday by the Viking Press, New York City. It is a newly written statement based to some extent on material used by the same author in "Brown America" which has been a standard work on Negroes since it was published in 1931.

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Edwin Embree's New Book Lauds Negro Progress

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

"Brown Americans" Is Title Of Volume By White Author; Tells Of Race's Strong Support Of Labor Movement

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 21—(ANP)—"Brown Americans" by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald fund, issued Friday by the Viking Press, New York City. It is a newly written statement based to some extent on material used by the same author in "Brown America" which has been a standard work on Negroes since it was published in 1931.

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BOOKS

Defender
By BEN BURNS

African Medicine Man

"LIFE IS TOO SHORT" by C. Kay-Scott. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. $3.50.

TEN YEARS as a medical missionary in deepest Africa during the late nineties launched adeventurous C. Kay-Scott on a lifetime of travels and experience that not one man out of a billion can hope to enjoy.
Chicago, Ill.

Today the aged one-time doctor, painter, author, farmer and businessman looks back at his varied and versatile career in his autobiography that is a gripping, exciting chronicle from cover to cover.

Life, most assuredly, was too short for this man who in less than a century lived the lives of ten or more of the ordinary men. But to Kay-Scott, to his readers most certainly, his story of pioneering in tropical medicine in Africa is the most thrilling portion of his years of adventure.

With his family he penetrated deep into the "white man's grave" and built a hospital for the natives. In competition with the witch doctors. He learned to respect and ad-

After Africa, Kay-Scott wandered through Europe, back to America and then to Brazil where he again touches on the color line in the course of some remarkable wanderings as an agent for the Singer

Sewing Machine company, as an unsuccessful farmer and then manager for an American mining firm. He has the feel and pulse of the vast, tropical Amazon valleys that in some ways are wilder and more dense than African jungles.

"Life Is Too Short" is more of an immense travel story than an autobiography for fortunately the author does not go too deeply into much of his personal affairs, including what seems at times a multitude of wives and love affairs. He skims over these casually and keeps the story of his intellectual pursuits as an author, educator and painter to a minimum.

The result is an always interesting session of reading despite a tendency sometimes to fall into a slightly heavy Victorian style of writing, that becomes too wordy and too dense.

Rural Georgia

New Masses

TENANTS OF THE ALMIGHTY, *by Arthur Raper. Macmillan. $3.50.*

New York, N. Y.

ARTHUR RAPER is one of the farm experts—all too few—who see that changes in technique and production trends and the drift of population reflect toil and struggle and every shade of human experience. His intensive study of rural life in one Georgia county conveys in simple and direct prose the epic story of successive generations of Indians, white settlers, Negro slaves, sharecroppers and poor "independent" farmers. The land and the people are living actors in the long drama which is only beginning to unfold.

From Louisiana Dunn, a Negro writer of verse in the county, Mr. Raper takes the title of his book:

We are tenants of the Almighty
Entrusted with a portion of His earth
To dress and keep
And pass on to the next generation
When evening comes and we must
fall asleep.

The book opens with a rich pictorial document, reminiscent in beauty and clarity of the unforgettable film *The River*. By showing us the county and its people at home and in the fields, at school and in meetings, it evokes a mood of deep concern. And, amazingly, the author is able to maintain this, so that the detailed factual material has, throughout, a quality of excitement and suspense.

This is a good book for the present moment. It shows the tremendous importance of a consistent and constructive government program for aiding small farmers. They need it for their own human welfare. And the rest of us need it because we must look to the small farmers for greatly increased food production.

Mr. Raper's story stops short of any production programs for 1944, but it leaves a deep impression of the simple, practical ways in which small farm output can be increased. Every month that passes makes more urgent the constructive planning, American and international, required for meeting the needs of our own people, our fighting forces, our Allies, and the hungry millions to be released from Axis rule.

From the later chapters of this book we get the feel of the quiet and unsung work of the Farm Security Administration in this one Georgia county. Mr. Raper points no morals. His book is something much bigger than a campaign document. But through it we sense the deep seriousness of reactionary efforts in Congress and out of it, to destroy that agency of progress.

From another angle, also, this book makes a signal contribution to this critical moment in our history. For it brings a fresh approach to the question of Negro-white relationships in the rural South. Mr. Raper shows concretely how the small white farmers, borne down by hopeless poverty and hardly more educated than their often illiterate Negro neighbors, had bolstered their own self-respect by clinging to the fable of racial superiority. The New Deal brought them a new sense of hope and achievement on the land. It seriously attacked their farming problems. Small money payments, seed fertilizers, chickens, and cows, and even building materials were made available on equal terms to hard-working small farmers whether colored or white.

While making no frontal attack on race prejudice, the New Deal stimulated a new kind of common effort. It opened the way for all small farmers, Negro and white, to regard each other simply as fellow Americans, working together to restore the goodness of the earth and to increase its yield.

ANNA ROCHESTER.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

Full Of Rhythm Of Negro Speech

ZIBA, by James Pipes. Published by the University of Oklahoma Press. 80 pages. $2.50.

If you like verses in Negro dialect, you will be taken with this little volume. It contains nine, short narratives which range in subject from the Negro's idea of his own origin to the unalloyed happiness granted those fortunate enough to enter "Paradise Land" after death. There is a version of Negro bondage, and there is an epic of his life on the levee. You are told of the tragedy of the young girl whose sweetheart works in the cane fields. You learn about dangerous and revolting accidents in sawmills, and there is an epic of his life and amusing terms used in card-playing, and you have revealed to you how a wealthy Negro spends his money. There is a piece full of the colorful specially arranged from a human standpoint, for they depict the Negro as the lusty, rugged, earthly being he is.

The poems cannot be quickly absorbed. They require patient peru-

A great critical send-off for a brilliant first novel:

Beautifully written

"If you really want to know what caused the Harlem riot, read this book. Beautifully written, magnificently and brutally honest. If you have the courage to read it, you'll never be complacent about the so-called race question again." —WALTER WHITE

A piece of Americana

"There's a big slice of life, the wide-eyed wonder of it and the deep pain inside when you can't live it freely and honestly, in Bucklin Moon's exceptional story. It is a piece of Americana." —HARRY HANSEN

Doesn't pull his punches

"Mr. Moon doesn't pull his punches, doesn't prettify his Harlem. And yet, through all the bitterness of a story which might help some of us to understand the Harlem riots, runs an undercurrent of fun and love-making which gives the story a rough and rollicking authenticity." —LEWIS GANNETT

A triumph of the imagination

"Mr. Moon's ability to convey the continual beat of terror through a kind and good boy's head is remarkable. It marks him as a mature artist with a sure command of effects. His story is a triumph of the imagination." —JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

Flashes of beauty

"Because these episodes form a pattern in the lives of two ordinary, likable youngsters, they catch and kindle the imagination as the actuality may not have done. This is a thoughtful novel with flashes of beauty as well as pain." —MARY ROSS, N. Y. *Herald-Tribune Weekly Book Review*

A fine novel

"Mr. Moon has learned what too many of our indignant champions of the underdog ignore; the value of understatement and the cooperation you get from a reader when you ask him to use his head and his imagination. He can write a fine novel . . . packs ten times the punch of a social tract."
—A. C. SPECTORSKY. Chicago *Sun*

Needed to be written

"*The Darker Brother* needed to be written and Bucklin Moon was the right person to do it. The moral is clear to anyone who can 'read between the lines.' It takes a superior craftsman to write in this invisible ink."
—RACKHAM HOLT

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

THE Darker Brother

A Novel by

BUCKLIN MOON

At your bookseller's

$2.50 · DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

8-1943

Pearl Buck reports on a visit to refugee Americans living in Philadelphia

COME in please," a young girl's soft voice said to Pearl Buck: "Mother is expecting you."

The girl was dark, with black eyes and smooth, shining black hair. "If she had been born in Samoa or the Philippines, she would have been called an island beauty. But she was born in—and was living in—the United States of America, in the city of Philadelphia." Her speech was pure American.

Miss Buck followed her upstairs. "Mother is talking to my grandmother," the girl said. "Grandmother has just had a long distance call from my father. . . . It's Mother's Day, you know. Father is a major in the army, a doctor, with the new flying corps of Tuskegee."

Watching her and listening as she talked about her school life, Pearl Buck thought, "This is a happy child."

The girl said she went to a public school, where colored and white girls mingled. "She liked her friends and had a good time. She was not often treated differently because she was not white." But, as she spoke, a shadow came over her dark eyes.

Miss Buck put a question to that shadow: "Don't your colored schoolmates ever feel any disadvantage in not being white?"

Yes, it seemed, they did, especially when they were seniors. Before graduation, for instance, the girls went on a trip to Washington. But, because no hotel there would take them if some were colored, the colored ones stayed behind. "Of course," the girl added, "we wanted the white girls to go. We wouldn't want them to miss the fun."

* * *

THE girl's mother came in then, a woman graceful and pretty enough to explain her daughter. She was a quiet woman, gentle with long breeding. . . . Obviously she had never known want or insecurity.

"My husband," she said proudly, "fought in the last war, too. He didn't feel he was doing his duty until he volunteered again. . . ."

She told how he had once gone to Europe for advanced study in medicine. "Why did he go to Europe?" Miss Buck asked.

The faint shadow now passed over the mother's face. "It's easier for us over there," she answered. "We doubted whether he would have been allowed to do the same work here."

Until then, Miss Buck had been thinking, "Here is a colored American family who feel no disadvantage in their color." She had never had that experience before. She had never seen colored Americans who did not have a rankling sense of injustice. But here, she had thought, was a family that "showed it was possible to live in America, colored—yet like anyone else."

No contemporary American writer has spoken out more fearlessly on the race issue than Pearl Buck, Nobel Prize-winning novelist. In *What America Means to Me* (published tomorrow by John Day, $2), she continues the crusade she began a year ago in *American Unity and Asia*. "East and West, today the peoples need each other," Miss Buck says. "Nothing must be allowed to keep us apart. . . . The plain peoples of the earth must discover that they are alike in their simple and deep desires." The moving study, on this page, of an American family, is based on the first chapter of Pearl Buck's new book.—ROGER PIPPETT.

"Does your husband have white patients as well as colored?" she asked.

"Oh, yes. He goes wherever he is needed."

"And do you have white friends?"

"No," the mother said quietly. "I have none."

"But your daughter," Miss Buck persisted. "She tells me she goes to school with white girls."

"So did I," said the mother. "But after school, I didn't see them any more. . . . One doesn't want to go where the welcome is doubtful."

The shadow was very clear now.

"Let's talk frankly about this matter of race," Miss Buck said. "Do you have much trouble here in Philadelphia?"

"Oh, no," the mother replied. "Not if we choose our places. That is, there are nice places to eat, where they will let us go in. We just don't go to the other places. . . . And we can hear good music. They let us come to the concerts."

"They?" asked Miss Buck.

"The white people," the mother answered gently.

"But you have your own friends?"

"Oh, yes." The mother's face brightened. "I have very nice friends, and their daughters are my daughters' friends. We have a pleasant little set of our own, we live within it."

They talked on for an hour, Pearl Buck pressing her questions and the mother answering with "a sort of sweet frankness." Now and again the daughter would add a word.

* * *

AND, as they talked, Pearl Buck began to wonder where she had seen all this before. "Delicate, pretty women, sensitive faces, well-bred manners and gentle voices, interest in music and the theater—and yet all of it hedged about with an unexpressed fear. Where before had I seen this world within a world?"

Suddenly she remembered. This American family reminded her of the refugees she had met in many parts of the world. In Shanghai and in France. She remembered the refugees from Germany, "living in a small circle, maintaining their life by forgetting what they did not want to remember, clinging together, trying to make a little world for themselves in a fearful world outside."

"Do you feel American," she asked. They were startled. "Oh, yes," the mother said, with her first touch of real passion, "Why, we belong here!"

She looked bewildered by the question, half-frightened by it. "We've been here for generations" she went on. "My husband is fighting for America. Oh, yes, we're American."

But now the shadow was very dark, so dark that Miss Buck "hadn't the heart to go on trying to pierce it. . . We talked only a few minutes more after that, about small things, and then I came away, carrying the shadow with me. Think of living in your own country, but having to be watchful continually for insult!"

On her way home, Miss Buck began to share the shadow. "These two women were the equals of any I had met in any country, and superior to many. I knew of my own race. I was proud they were Americans, but bitterly ashamed of the shadow over their lives."

* * *

THE shadow is with Pearl Buck still. "I think it will be with me as long as it is here in our country. For race prejudice is not only a shadow over the colored. It is a shadow over all of us. We cannot, she concludes, "grow in strength and leadership for democracy so long as we carry deep in our being this fatal fault. It is the white people who are endangered by race prejudice. We are endangered in the world, where there are many millions more of colored people than of white.

"The world will close down on us some day if race prejudice goes on dividing us.

"It is not healthy when a nation lives within a nation, as colored Americans are living inside America. A nation cannot live confident of its own citizens. For race prejudice is not only a shadow over the colored. It is a shadow over all of us. We cannot, she concludes, "grow in strength and leadership for democracy so long as we carry deep in our being this fatal fault. It is the white people who are endangered by race prejudice. We are endangered in the world, where there are many millions more of colored people than of white.

"The world will close down on us some day if race prejudice goes on dividing us."

Good Living in the South: Story of a Gracious Woman

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois
JUL 25 1943

"THE DWELLING PLACE," by Anne Goodwin Winslow. [Knopf, $2.50.]

JUL 25 1943

Reviewed by Kenneth C. Kaufman.

A story may be told by musing on the past and savoring the present. It is apt to be only the ghost of a story, a pleasant sort of ghost and very friendly, making its existence known only by the merest glimpses and by its presence felt. Anne Winslow's story boils down to something like this: She was born in a country home near Memphis, when "The War" still meant Shiloh and Vicksburg. She was married to an army officer, a great grandson of the Capt. Winslow whose Kearsarge sank the Alabama off Cherbourg, and during the course of her married life she visited most of the globe.

JUL 25 1943

After her husband's retirement they moved back to her old home, now much nearer Memphis, owing to the city's growth, and since his death and the marriage of her children [the son is also an army officer], she continues to live in the old house, devoting herself to her flowers, her dogs, her servants, her friends, and latterly, to her writing. She was some years ago a frequent contributor of poetry to magazines, and she adds the poet's fine touch to her graceful prose in these musings and sketches.

JUL 25 1943

In the south there is always much to muse upon, particularly if one has deep roots in a place. Mrs. Winslow's home is filled with memories of a happy childhood, dominated more or less by a lawyer father who commuted to Memphis and who at home was counsellor and physician to half the country round about as well as tutor to his daughters. The house itself, in spite of growth and decay and remodeling, is forever the same, with its enormously high ceilings and its enormously voracious fireplaces. And, when there aren't guests, there is the delight of solitude.

Some of these guests are famous, and, thru Mrs. Winslow's eyes, all of them are fascinating. Among them have been Vachel Lindsay, William Alexander Percy, Ford Madox Ford, Allen Tate, and Richard Halliburton.

JUL 25 1943

She likes to take you into her confidence on the subject of fighting the Civil war over again [she is decidedly not a professional southerner], on ghosts, with which all old houses are provided, even tho they are not always conventional ones; on the ways and wiles of Negroes, but without the slightest pretension to explaining their mental processes; of the delights of winter firesides and spring gardening, on the glory of magnolias in June, on amateur theatricals and southern cooking [she should be jailed for not giving full details for making that spiced round of beef], and Great Danes, and picking geese.

JUL 25 1943

Scattered among these essays are the outlines of incidents which any fictioneer would pounce on with glee, an inexhaustible veins of rich ore, waiting to be processed, and all furnished with real personages far stranger and more interesting than any invented ones: the Irish governess and the shanty boatman, the two Negro servants who were gentleness itself—if one could forget the murder each had committed, the old southern lady whose imaginary adventures became real by dint of much telling, the wayward peacock, and the maiden aunt with her lost love.

JUL 25 1943

This is a book like the still glowing coals of a hearth fire, no blaze but much warmth, sparks of wit and wisdom, and good to remember and dream beside.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Washingtonians, by all means, should place on their must summer reading list "Horse and Buggy Days With Uncle Sam" (Margent Press, New York. $2.) by John H. Paynter. This is Mr. Paynter's fourth book, and by far his best.

"Horse and Buggy Days" deals primarily with the author's more than forty years in the United States government service. He draws graphic word pictures of the prejudices as practiced by the Civil Service Commission and he has presented the most comprehensive report of the kind that has been offered to date. He does not sugar-coat the predicament in which Negro government employees find themselves. He writes with conviction, making you feel the sincerity of a man who worked, observed, catalogued those observations, and then intelligently presents them in permanent form—so that those who seek may find. Perhaps my observations do not tally with Mr. Paynter's intent in writing "Horse and Buggy Days" but I feel certain that many readers will get that impression, nevertheless.

JUL 31 1943

The author speaks with authority relative to the failure of Reconstruction principles and personages, especially Negro legislators.

The fifteen full-page illustrations of such interesting people as Jonathan Cover, Captain George W. Wilson, Royal E. Wilbur, Jerome A. Johnson, Honorable Lafe Pence, William B. Coles add greatly to the volume.

His first book, "Joining the Navy or Abroad with Uncle Sam" was followed by "Fifty Years After" a sequal to "Joining the Navy." His other book is "The Fugitives of the Pearl."

Current Negro Issue Features Biography

ATLANTA—(ANP)—The current issue of Phylon, a review of race and culture, published by Atlanta university, carries articles on little known figures of Negro and Indian descent, a French speaking mulatto playwright, and a commentary on American living standards by noted scholars of the country's colleges and universities.

Prof. T. A. Daley of Dillard university has written a biography of the late Victor Sejour, one of the most popular playwrights of the Nineteenth century. Sejour was of Negro descent and American birth, but did most of his work in the French capital.

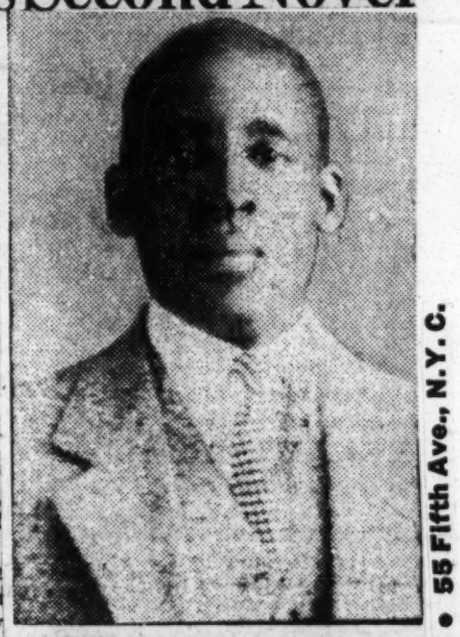
John Hope, II, of Spelman college, offers criticisms on the American standard of living in an article entitled "Nation on Floor" to Standards of Living.

The story of various Negro-Indian persons of distinction and leadership is told by Kenneth Porter, of Vassar college, in a poem sequence.

Other articles deal with race aspects in federal public relations, and Greek and Chinese philosophies. Authors like Henry Lee Moon, Hans Lamm and Myrtle Mae Bowers make this edition of Phylon one of its most interesting.

African Prince In Alabama Completes His Second Novel

Chicago Defender
FEB 27 1943



DR. AKIKI K. NYABONGO

(Special to The Defender)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Dr. Akiki K. Nyabongo of the social science department of Alabama State Teachers college here has just completed his second novel, "The Story of An African Girl."

His first novel was "The Story of an African King," for which one of his professors at Yale university, Dr. William Lyon Phelps, wrote the introduction. It was a Book of the Month selection.

Dr. Nyabongo, who is a descendant of a long line of African kings, however, has not confined all of his writing to fiction.

Among his published works are "African Ideals and Life," "African Flower Language," and "Missionary Work in Africa." He has also written two volumes of children's stories, "Bisoro Stories," which are used in the English public schools.

Born in Kabarole, Toro, Uganda, East Africa, under the shadow of the Rwenzoli mountains, he was first educated in the African schools established for members of royalty, then came to the United States where he studied at Howard and Yale universities. Later he went to Oxford university in England where he earned his doctorate.

He has travelled extensively in Africa, Asia, and the entire continent of Europe. His brother is the present King of Toro. Nyabongo's wife, the former Miss Virginia Simmons, was dean of students at Bennett college. She is now at Madison, Wis., where she is studying on her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin.

Of Dr. Nyabongo, R. R. Maret, rector of Exeter college, Oxford, England, says in his latest book, "A Jerseyman at Oxford," the following:

"Prince Akiki Nyabongo of the blood royal of Toro the region of Uganda next to the Mountains of the Moon has acquired the art of writing admirable English without losing touch with the ancient customs of his race of which he may well be proud. His 'Story of an African Chief' is in its way a masterpiece; and his 'Bisoro Stories' I have tried on my grandchildren with excellent results."

According to Dr. Phelps, Dr. Nyabongo "has enjoyed the benefits of an European and American university education; he speaks English with absolute fluency; he is well read in English literature; he has specialized in the study of philosophy, psychology, meta-physics and the history of religion.

"During his stay at Yale it was my good fortune to become intimately acquainted with him. Prince Nyabongo is a gentleman and a scholar."

Dr. Nyabongo and his wife plan to make their home in Africa after she receives her degree, but will return to this country at intervals where they both have many friends.

LONGMANS, GREEN • 55 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.
New York Times
DEC 5 1943

BY ROI OTTLEY

New World A-Coming

...an entertaining book by a Negro about Negroes because ... and tells you what Negroes think about almost everything from jive talk and café-au-lait society to segregation and race riots.

315 pages. $2.50

To be published Oct. 27

OCT 18 1943

THE RACE QUESTION AND THE NEGRO

By John LaFarge

This Constructive Book

OCT 18 1943

DISCUSSES race relations chiefly as they concern the Negro in the United States.

CONTENDS that the problem of racial relations is moral and that every man has a responsibility for the race situation in his own neighborhood.

SUGGESTS practical, concrete, immediate methods for the practice of interracial justice.

IS BASED on fifteen years of experience and study in groups working for interracial understanding.

New Republic
New York. N. Y. 1943

INCLUDES four chapters dealing with special problems raised by wartime conditions.

Eight Lessons From Detroit

PM
New York, N. Y.
NOV 7 1943

The first book about last June's race riots in Detroit is out tomorrow (*Race Riot*, published by the Dryden Press, $1.50). It was written by two eyewitnesses of the outbreak—Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey.

Both men are members of the faculty of Wayne University, Detroit. Lee is head of the department of sociology and author also of *The Fine Art of Propaganda* and *The Daily Newspaper in America*. Humphrey, assistant professor of sociology, once worked on the Ford assembly line. He was assaulted during the riots when he tried to save the life of a Negro youth.

The June outbreak, the authors point out, is "not just of local Detroit significance. Many of the irritants are common enough elsewhere and have been enjoying a lush growth throughout the country since the beginning of the war."

UNDER the heading *What NOT to Do If You Want to Prevent Race Riots*, the authors list eight warnings:

1. Do not expect to gain much through experimental legislation. "The laws on race and civil disorders in most of our states are fairly satisfactory from the standpoint of meeting race crises, but *the real problem is to obtain adequate and humane law enforcement.*"

In many cases, in the Detroit riots, the police not only failed to protect Negroes, but they "frequently were merely interested spectators at Negro beatings." On the other hand, "the notably impartial behavior of the U. S. Army troops," who were called in on the second day, "commanded immediate respect from both blacks and whites.

"The Detroit experience proved that impartial, rather than prejudiced, policing behavior is a crucial necessity in handling a riot situation," and the happier Harlem experience of August 1-2, 1943, drove this lesson home.

2. Do not try to go "too far" or "too fast"—or too slowly. "All effective adjustments of relations between Negroes and whites must take into account the *possibilities—what can be done*—in your city.

"You must work with and through other community leaders, and through them you must reach and obtain the support and sympathy of powerful segments of the community. Programs that *sound* too radical, that bring forward too many new features at once and without adequate preparation, and that require greater speed than the community will sanction—such programs may do more to harm than to aid your riot-elimination program."

The authors urge the setting up, in every city with a Negro problem, of an official biracial commission, appointed by the governor or the local mayor, and a civic biracial committee, sponsored by leading civic, labor, religious, business and educational bodies. These two organizations should be composed of "practical Negro members who represent actual Negro interests, not so-called 'white-man Negroes,' and practical white members who have a vivid appreciation of the crucial nature of white-Negro frictions."

These bodies could make up a biracial index, take public opinion polls and establish a race sentiments barometer. The index would give "a rough composite 'reading' on the comparative calmness or feverishness of the biracial situation at frequent intervals." The polls would "summarize verbal reactions to Negro-white situations." And the barometer, by determining the power of the local emotional "ground swells," would "give a basis for more fundamental diagnosis and more accurate prediction" of Negro-white relations.

3. Do not ignore the less cultured and even the stupid and depraved elements of your city. "These are the people who may terrify you in the next race riot. What they think, what they do with their time, what can be done to restrain or neutralize their anti-Negro and anti-white feelings—these should be primary concerns of an anti-race-riot program."

Many of the most violent assaults on Negroes in the Detroit riots were "perpetrated by hoodlums in their late twenties and thirties." A former member of the city's arson squad told one of the authors:

"The whites that did most of the car burning on Woodward Avenue were from gangs of Italians, Syrians and others who hang around bars and pool rooms and in peacetime pull false alarms and that sort of thing. Almost all of them have police records. And it was the same type of Negro who did most of the fire-setting in Paradise Valley."

4. Do not ignore existing biracial organizations, especially if they have healthy roots. "The promoters of a riot-prevention program can save themselves a lot of groundwork and the antagonisms likely to arise from duplication by pumping new life into an existing civic or governmental organization rather than by setting up a competing new one.

"This does not mean . . . that an unworkable program with incompetent functionaries should be perpetuated. Investigate the existing foundations and build upon them, if possible."

5. Beware of excessive fact-finding. "From the time of the race riots in 1925, Detroit has had a lot of fact-finding surveys and program-making, but the 1943 riots demonstrated how little the surveys had accomplished.

"As an investigator of the 1943 riots put it, 'We cannot make surveys and recommendations and be content to have them gather dust in someone's files.' *Fact-finding must be made functional.* It must contribute to a program and should result in modifications of our current thinking and in specific actions. It should not be carried on in an academic spirit of 'learning more and more about less and less,' if the objective is to prevent race riots and not merely to write a learned disquisition."

6. Beware of the "committee-appointing dodge." "When politicians or university presidents or other human leaders find themselves compelled to do something, they have one all-too-fallible 'out'," say the authors. "They can appoint a committee.

"With some judgment in the selection of committee personnel, the group appointed can either accomplish a great deal or it can stall along for any suitable period and *prevent decisive action* until a time more expedient politically."

7. Beware of complacency, of "business as usual." "Race relations represent a continuing problem in many parts of the United States. To ignore the implications of this problem solves nothing.

"Leaving the field to the agitations of pro-whites and pro-Negroes can lead to nothing but bloody outbreaks. Above all, each city that has biracial problems ought to take precautionary measures and then proceed with the business of improving basic Negro and biracial conditions in the housing, recreational, employment and other fields."

8. Beware of emergency-mindedness. "Even though race riots present themselves as emergencies, they are in turn symptoms of deep and abiding American problems . . . To try to cope with race riots on the basis of a temporary campaign to meet a passing crisis is to be tragically superficial."

* * *

We need to "invest our energies more wisely by thinking in terms of thousands upon thousands of ways to promote decent interracial relationships," say the authors.

"Women who have employed 'white-woman' Negroes for years as maids and laundresses delude themselves into thinking that they know something about the Negro people. They would be shocked and dismayed to learn how mistaken their impressions have been."

We can "advocate and eventually achieve the elimination of anti-Negro discrimination in the enlistment of police, firemen and other governmental employes, so that our governments will not appear to Negroes to be so overwhelmingly white-controlled. We can take immediate measures to help Negroes to get more adequate housing—at a figure comparable to what their white neighbors must pay. We can prevail upon those labor unions which discriminate against Negro applicants to end this Nazi-like guarantee of white privilege."

Three signs of hope

The authors point hopefully to three aspects of the Detroit riots:

First: "Observer after observer reported that no noteworthy trouble occurred in mixed districts where whites and Negroes had lived as neighbors long enough to get to know and understand each other . . .

"Through experiences in neighborliness, or even in mere nearness, we can learn to live nearby people of another race without antagonistic frictions."

Second: "Negro and white students attended classes at Wayne University throughout the day and evening of Bloody Monday (June 21, 1943), with no indications whatsoever of conflict. . . . 'Going to school together' works powerfully against intolerance, especially when the school administrators and teachers count this lesson among their objectives."

Third: "Whites and blacks worked side by side in the war plants of the Arsenal of Democracy on Bloody Monday, and there were no disorders. . . . Through the common experiences of shop work and union activity, whites and Negroes learn to appreciate each other's better qualities and to recognize their rights as fellow human beings."

These experiences, say the authors, "offer hope of long-term Negro-white adjustments, even though the faith of many in inter-racial peace is at a low ebb. As one old Negro woman is quoted as saying, 'There ain't no North any more. Everything now is South.'

"But the industrialized and urbanized North has conditions of population-fluidity and of mixed living, learning and working that will prevent the kind of serfdom one finds in the agricultural areas of the South.

"With the increasing industrialization and urbanization of the South, it might more accurately be said, 'Some day there won't be any North or South any more. It will all be just the United States. And it will give any man who deserves it a break—regardless of race, creed or previous condition of servitude.'

"Let us hope," the authors conclude, "that we can make the prevention of race riots and of lynchings a first great step in that direction."—ROGER PIPPETT

Urges Needed Unity Through Negro Leaders' Conference

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

(Lin Yutang's BETWEEN TEARS AND LAUGHTER, Roy Ottley's NEW WORLD A-COMING, and Julius J. Adams' recent series on "Negro Leadership" serve as the basis for the pertinent suggestion in the article below. The author, Mrs. Ann Arnold Hedgeman, is a former YWCA secretary, school teacher, and present regional director of race relations for the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD).—The Editors.)

By ANN ARNOLD HEDGEMAN

I have just finished reading Roy Ottley's book, NEW WORLD A-COMING. It is an interesting reporting job for Negroes who have been close to events and personalities. Negro Americans will be interested in reading it.

There is a chapter called "Negroes are Saying...", which contains some material on which I would like to comment. It has to do with the relationship of the Negro to the whole war effort. It reviews briefly the relationship of the Negro to World War 1, quoting W. E. B. DuBois' famous "Close Ranks" statement to the Nation. It also presents the present picture and has in it the following sentences:

"Negroes today boldly look beyond the horison of the Negro community, even beyond the borders of the United States, and are concerned with the condition and future of the colored peoples elsewhere in the world. Harlem's PEOPLE'S VOICE, in a long editorial, observed that 'The United Nations must immediately rethink the entire Colonial Problem' and concluded with the remark, 'The Axis can only be beaten by a free world.'" . . . "Native despair and unrest in Jamaica . . ." "Negroes sometimes suspect that there is a tacit understanding among English and American leaders to limit democracy to white men only . . ." "Negroes are keenly conscious of the ironic fate which has thrown Africa into the vortex of struggling empires. The war's objectives of freedom and democracy are ardently desired by American Negroes for the Africans . . ." "Dr. DuBois recently stressed the fact that the white world had millions of dollars invested in Africa, which obviously makes that continent an important part of the world economy. Yet in current plans and discussions nothing is said about its future." . . . "The unyielding attitude of British in India, with the Government's tacit support of this policy, has been the subject of much discussion in Negro circles." . . . "What all the 19th century fabric in the of Negroes is apattern of continued white domination of colored peoples."

It is intertsing that just as Roi Ottley pulls together all of this material, Lin Yutang states a case for China and warns the Allies of dangers ahead. Several quotes from his book are interesting at this point. Lin Yutang says:

"It is my belief that even if did 19th century imperialism the vrth century fabric in the form of a fairly white domination of the world, it is now a little too late." Asia is too aroused to submit, and too big to spank. The West must either plan for cooperation with Asia or plan without it—and make ready for a bigger and better war." . . . "How did vrth century imperialism begin, and how did the white man go about conquering the world, and what made him think he was superior to the other peoples? Because the white man had guns and the Asiatics had none. It was as simple' as that . . .". "The white man is saying to all the other races of the worlds—'I am trying to be perfect even as our Father in Heaven is perfect, but all you natives need to do is to be perfect like me and get into my way of thinking, and I am sure our Father in Heaven will be quite pleased with you. He wouldn't mind if you had a little heavier pigment. Now toddle along.'"

People are speaking out and fortunately many white Americans are recognizing that the race issue must be met at once if we are not to have "the bigger and better war" of which Lin Yutang warns. Many liberal organizations have been speaking out for a long time about the indignities suffered by the American Negro. Many of them are seeing for the first time the relationship of this struggle to the whole world picture. Many have recognized that at this particular moment in history the Negro group is perhaps the most significant group of people in the world. Washington as the capitol of the U. S. A. and as spokesman for one of the most powerful of the United Nations has stated emphatically that the "Four Freedomes" must be secured for "everyone everywhere in the world." Because of the negation of these freedoms in many parts of the world, the things that official Washington says are being studied by the darker races around the world, but the statements themselves are not being accepted at their face value. More and more the Nations of Color have begun to watch carefully the activity of the United States Government in relationship to the [illegible] in America. They decide what Washington means by what Washington is actually doing as regards the Negro. We can then as militant Negroes be exceedingly helpful in aiding America to practice what she preaches. We can serve her relationships to the world picture through our day by day struggle.

Julius J. Adams Quoted

Julius J. Adams of the **Amsterdam News** has called repeatedly for a National Conference of Negro leaders and has urged that this conference project a concrete program at once. He has insisted that such a program on a nation-wide basis would be helpful to Negroes in America, to white America and to the world. I believe now is the time to accept the challenge which Mr. Adams has been so vigorously giving us.

I believe that such a conference ought to be called at once and that it ought to be representative of all elements in Negro life. There should be in such a gathering church women and men, as well as the ministry; there ought to be labor representation — organized and unorganized, fraternal representation, press and youth representation. This kind of cross-section could sit down and point out the next steps on which we must demand no compromise.

We need to forget all organizational lines, all political lines, all class lines and move emphatically and directly towards the adoption of a positive program. As a result of the Detroit race riots, a great many white citizens have asked for definite suggestions for action which seem to the Negro to be most important at this time. They ought to have answers immediately presented by a unified group which would have the respect of the Country and crystalize the planning of many organizations and groups.

Courageous Press.

Our press has been courageous; independent Negro leaders and organizations have been courageous. They have worked tirelessly during this period. This seems to be a particular moment when Mr. Adams' program might be effective beyond all of the individual tasks on which all kinds of honest and far-seeing people have been laboring. Some of us feel that the time is now and hope that some one of our legal arts will step out and mobilize a National Conference of Negro leadership at once. Hopefully this conference would be a workship for the review of already evolved recommendations made by our many organizations and committees.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By BEN BURNS

"THE WHITE FACE" By Carl Ruthaven Offord. Robert M. McBride & Co. ($2.50.)

Realism In Writing

OUT OF the depression decade, born and bred in the squalor and degradation of ghetto life has come a new school of Negro writing these past several years. Still groping and experimenting, in many ways as yet immature and unpolished, the new realism of Negro novelists is an uncertain product.

Richard Wright perhaps best represents the circle of writers who have attempted to squarely face the feelings and fate of the black man in a white man's world. In his "Native Son" he created in searing, scorching pages what is unquestionably one of the finest literary works yet written by a Negro novelist.

Yet in many respects he failed in his purpose, he left a gaping void in his Gorki-like portrait of the Negro in the "Terrible Thirties." He posed the problem of every tenth American but fell flat into morose defeatism with his too convenient climax that killed off his potent protagonist, Bigger Thomas. Wright failed in the Negro's most dire hour to give some hope and faith to a hopeful and faithful people.

Somewhat of the same dilemma is presented in a first novel by Carl Offord, a New York Negro newspaperman. It has been some two months now since its publication date but "The White Face" is not the kind of book one reviews at a first reading. There are too many questionables in the volume to consider. While its skillfully-woven plot makes for the most intense reading without letup, still it winds up with a limp letdown. Again the searching, quizzical reader finds the dire Dostoyevsky touch that seems to dictate tragedy-or-else.

Thrilling Novel

BUT DESPITE Offord's convenient and unbelievable close, he has written a thrilling, powerful novel on anti-Semitism in Harlem. Many of its pages are unconvincing, but for some unexplainable reason it demands attention from its opening words. Its gripping writing refuses to relax the reader for a moment.

And it is the remarkable quality of "The White Face" that makes all the more unusual the final feeling of dissatisfaction with Offord's novel as a complete work. It does not quite fulfill its promise.

With broad, colorful strokes, Offord tells the thrilling tale of a Southern Negro lost in the maze of Harlem. He takes him through the melange of political movements from right to left. His contacts with police terror, tenement hovels fascist Coughlinites, "belly roll" artists, the Bronx slave market, and poverty generally are skillfully written into an always-exciting plot.

In his handling of the Negro problem, Offord does not rest for a moment in his powerful blasts at the men in high places who would doom the black man to perpetual serfdom under the heel of Jim Crow. The author uses his typewriter as a blinding beacon to ferret out the injustice that the American Negro faces, whether on a Georgia plantation or in highly civilized New York.

Unfortunately Offord, in dealing with another American minority, the Jews, has been guilty of such vivid zeal in presenting anti-Semitism that his counter-balance is not strong enough to meet some charges that his book leans to Jew-baiting. There is no question where Offord stands on the Jewish-Negro relationship but his lack of literary experience shows definitely in his failure to get across his actual ideas.

But whatever Offord's deficiences, his is a talent that holds great promise. With more experience and more concentration, he has the makings of a first rate American novelist.

8-1943

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

NOV 27 1943

Prisoner of the Japanese

"In this country (America) we had the right to live as we wanted, to do what we wanted, to love what we wanted to love, and to be free from darkness and pain." You will remember the sincerity of these words long after you have read "Half a World Away" by Frances Long ($2. Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., New York; Toronto).

Miss Long was brought up in the International Settlement at Shanghai, went to school in England; then back to Shanghai to make her debut just after the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war. She held a job on a Chinese newspaper, fell in love with a Marine, and was evacuated to Manila, from where she was to reach the United States, but Japan attacked the Philippines; Miss Long and other foreigners were imprisoned.

She relates frankly the horrors they encountered at the hands of the ruthless foe; how men and women, denied normal emotional releases, became warped and hopeless while Bataan fell, and our armies retreated to Corregidor.

"Half a World Away" is a young girl's vital story of love, misery, hate and hope regained in a war-shaken world, and of the joy of becoming free again. Miss Long and another girl prisoner were freed through official exchange, and arrived in America to rehabilitate themselves after their amazing experiences in a Japanese internment camp.

Gwendolyn Williams,
Indianapolis, Ind.

* * *

An Interesting Life

"Life Is Too Short," by Cyril Kay-Scott (Pub. by J. B. Lippincott Co., N. Y. $3.50) is an autobiography of rare vintage. The author's real name was Dr. Frederick Creighton Wellman. As Dr. Wellman he spent nine years in Central Africa. His reports on the people and customs in Angola and the Belgian Congo, during the 1890's, show an extremely courageous and intelligent outlook. Although a Southerner, he is without color prejudice. Stationed at a Protestant mission in the far interior (at that time), he got to know the Central Africans well. He found them strong, intelligent, lovable, witty, brave and disciplined. Now, at 74, he looks back on them with greater appreciation than ever. He has since lived in Europe, Brazil and the United States and he says that nowhere has he found people to equal them in valor or excel them in human virtues.

No one interested in knowing the background of the Negro should miss Dr. Wellman's description of the beautiful custom of "soul mates" among these folk; of the witch doctor's ability to read minds and transfer thought and foretell the future (also his many trick series); the average hunter's bravery [illegible] of wild animals; and of [illegible] completely normal sex relations where no degenerative practices are known. So sane and original are the doctor's views that one regrets that he ever left Africa. Before he left, he had made a dictionary of Umbundu, taught many native men how to tend the sick in the most modern way and contributed much to tropical medicine and plant lore. It is too bad that fate had to step in, change his name and profession and thereby lessen the value of his industry.

Due to an unhappy second marriage and his intense desire to escape the consequences of his bad judgment, he flees his job as dean of Tulane university in New Orleans, with one of his students, the only child of an ex-railroad president. At that time, even more than today, such an act was scandalous. Changing his name to Cyril Kay-Scott, he and his sweetheart (who later becomes a famous writer) take ship for Brazil via London. Without passports and with little money, they arrive in Rio and the ex-Dean has to do day labor to buy enough beans to keep them from starvation. Brazil does not prove a happy place for young love. His lady is ill most of the time, from improper care after the birth of their child, and being a "Southern lady" is too good for the things he is forced to do. Hardship keeps them together until he has another stroke of fortune and they return to the United States. Kay-Scott outlives this romance and goes on to another career and other loves. The last part of the book lacks interest, too many people are mentioned by name only and too much trivia is included. Undistinguished love affairs are the most boring things on earth and listing the virtues of one's children, four by the first wife in Africa, who one has not seen since babyhood, is the next dullest thing I know. The author is at heart a pioneer and appears best in those circumstances which require great fortitude and originality. It is too bad that so much of him had to be wasted on the commonplace.

Josephine Schuyler,
New York, N. Y.

Globe & Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

NOV 26 1943

Writes Pamphlet On Detroit Riots

DETROIT, Nov. 25 (ANP)—"The Detroit Race Riot," is the title of a recent pamphlet, published by Walter R. Harrison, former professor of sociology in two southern Negro colleges and [illegible] author of several studies on Negro life. Harrison takes up the following topics, the background of the riots, places of conflict, conflict groups, the Negro and national defense program and real estate and the race problem and the Negro's responsibility.

NOV 26 1943

ROI OTTLEY'S—"NEW WORLD A-COM ING"

BY NEIL SCOTT

OTTLEY

Lewis Gannett, the astute New York Tribue book critique said Roi Ottley's "New World a-Coming is "as if written to interpret the recent rioting in Harlem." Analyzing [illegible] his widely read byline, "Books and Things," Gannet further states that Mr. Ottley's book is a shrewd, lively and often surprising interpretation of the present state of mind of Negro America," especially as reflected in New York City.

AUG 20 1943

St. Louis, Missouri

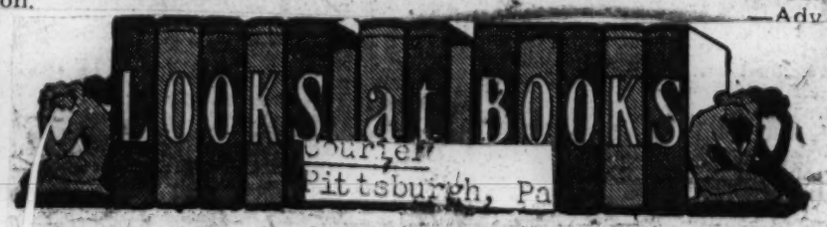
"New World a-Coming" goes much furthur than a simple interpretation of the present state of mind of Negro America. Rather, it pierces the oblique facade of the obvious and lays bare before the reader the deeper economical social factors which motivate and make articulate the black masses. To do this, it required a summation of the acme of intellectual honesty on the part of the author—a type of throwing caution to the winds. It is no easy task to analyze candidly the true faults and achievements along with the primary and ultimate motives of a people to whose destiny you are shackled because of the value placed on the color of a human's skin . Particularly in his treatment of the various movements to better the plight of "Black Americans" and the fundamental differences of opinion of Negro leaders, is the extraordinary candidness and fairness of the author shown. He wades into a job fitted for a titan and tackles it in a titan's manner.

Despite his youth, Mr. Ottley seems to be gifted with considerable forensic institution. He writes in delightfully free and fluid style which, respite the serious nd documentary nature of the work is filled with a bouyancy that makes it easy for one to read, Behind the oftentimes blatant facts that seems to always lurk a tantalizing bit of selfish humor.

"New World a-Coming" marks another phase in the black man's search for the true democracy—that of self-criticism. It is indicative of the thinking of the new generation of Afro-Americans who now examine themselves in preparation for bigger and broader social horizons in the post-war world. This in [illegible] own political, social, economic and psychological [illegible]. Ottley pictures a people skeptical but unafraid of the future—who have a firm grip on the reins of their common destiny. He sees a happy people fighting for their rights—for a "New World A-Coming," and thanking God for their unconquerable soul.

The documentation of the book generally is excellent. Several errors were however, partially due to the swift change of situations since the manuscript was submitted. Both author and publisher have graciously agreed to make the necessary corrections in the next edition.

—Adv.



OCT 16 1943

Spies In Nordica

"Duel for the Northland" reads like a novel of international intrigue by E. Phillips Oppenheim. But it is more interesting than any novel Oppenheim ever wrote, because its characters are living persons, some of whose names have become by-words since 1939, and because the conclusion is still be-ing written in the news-of espionage and counter-espionage paper dispatches from the Nazi-age raged between Horst von occupied countries of Scandinavia. Pflugk-Hartung, of the Nazi secret

Long before the invasion of Po-service, and Ernest Wolfveben, land, German agents were organ-Russian master of sabotage, whose izing sedition and sabotage in Den-underground activities have almark and Norway, preparing the-ready been described by Jan Valtin betrayals of democracy that were in "Out of the Night."

to stun the world in 1940. The This thrilling and terrifying bat-Russian secret service sought to tle of super-skullduggery, of arson, counteract the German efforts, and dynamitings and other forms of sabotage, of treachery and corruption in high places, is the burden of Kurt Singer's narrative, a stranger-than-fiction tale which provides an enlightening backdrop for many of today's happenings in the countries which border the Baltic. The intricate and merciless underworld of international politics is laid bare with dramtic skill, which keeps the reader absorbed up through the very last page.

As a veteran of the underground war against Nazism, and as a European journalist of some note, Kurt Singer was well qualified to relate this sensational and hitherto untold chapter of World War II. He is a native of Vienna, has lived in eight different countries, and has published 12 books in various languages. His life of Pastor Niemoller became a best-seller in Sweden and his biography of Goering was published in England.

Lois Taylor,
Hampton, Va.

* * *

Wisdom of India

Into the black chaos of this modern age comes, as if by Divine command, Swami Prabhavananda's translation of Srimad Bhagavatam, The Wisdom of God (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, $2.50). A sacred song of hope burns through the entire book. It embodies the beautiful legends of Sri Krishna and his sages and of devotees and kings who worshiped him. It relates the story of his birth. It portrays an unusual picture of the creation of the world by Brahma out of the heart of a full-blown Lotus. It was Brahma who gave the world the Vedas.

The Bhagavatam was compiled by the great sage, Vyasa, who taught its truths to his son, Suka, who in turn related them to King Parikshit when the latter was about to die. The saint Suta is the narrator.

Swami Prabhavananda gives us an English version of Hindu philosophy which we would do well to study. For instance: Mind alone is the cause of bondage or freedom; by its attachment to the world we become bound; by its devotion to God we become free. Lust, greed, desire for power is delusion. Religion is not for the purpose of securing a place in heaven, but as an inquiry into Truth which followers of the Vedas call Brahman; devotees call it God. Truth, the Atman, is gained through meditation on the Self which is in every man, is identical with God, and is the key to absolute freedom. The yogis have a definite path of study and practice which leads them to it.

One must look, it states, with an equal eye upon all beings. A wise man neither hates nor injures anyone. When his heart is firmly established in love, a man becomes master of himself and a teacher of humanity. His ego—the seat of his ignorance—is consumed in the fire of knowledge.

Book ten begins the story of the life of Sri Krishna, the divine incarnation of God; Book eleven concludes it, and the Bhagavatam proper. It consists mainly of the teachings of Sri Krishna as relative to the inquiries of a devotee, Uddhava. Sri Krishna explains the path to immortality. He said: "Worship me who am seated in the shrine of the heart. This world today is, tomorrow is not—empty as a dream, shifting like a circle of fire."

Gwendolyn Williams Hill.
Indianapolis, Ind.

* * *

Mystery

"Colour Scheme," by Ngaio Marsh (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, $2.50) is a mystery thriller of a different sort. The location is New Zealand, and that is an interesting change. The Claire family, of the [illegible] soon drawn into a murder plot [illegible] Claire's distinguished guests, [illegible] They are sympathetically treated that murderers can be just as [illegible] The plot is so cleverly devised [illegible] are laid in great cities. This is a [illegible] wicked and devious in the [illegible] nice to know [illegible] English officer class, now retired, [illegible] and funny. Miss Claire is a misfit with hidden [illegible] They operate a resort for hot baths [illegible] are developed [illegible] and attract a strange group of [illegible] by a gift of new and [illegible] characters. Living right next to [illegible] famous [illegible] the Maori Reservation, the natives [illegible] has come for the baths, [illegible] by gifts of clothes from a [illegible] concert for some of reading. Most murders [illegible] Claire's [illegible] are laid in great cities. This is a [illegible] nice to know [illegible] can be just as [illegible] in the country. [illegible] Josephine Schuyler.

ROGERS SAYS:

Getting Their Work Published Is Writers' Toughest Problem

BY J. A. ROGERS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

SOME MONTHS ago, I wrote on the writing of good books to read, which brought me many requests for another column in a similar vein, especially on how to get books published. However, for one reason or another, I did not do so, but, last week, a young professor from the Southwest called on me and I definitely promised him that I would say something about publishing this week.

His problem was this: As a teacher, his rating rises if he is an author; and, besides he loves to write. He has had two books, both of which he paid to publish, with a loss so far of $900 in cash; and he's still in debt. Only the day before, too, an old friend of mine told me he had lost $400 in this way without even seeing a proof. Others have told me of cases even worse. In short, it's an old, old story.

Mr. Rogers

NO EASY MATTER

Getting published is the great problem of almost every writer over the centuries. There are publishing firms which will take your book, print it and market it at their expense and give you so much percentage on each book sold. For this, the first qualification is whether such firms think your book will sell. They are in the game for money, they couldn't carry on without it; thus, merit is not their chief test; it is public taste. I am sure that none of the great classics—Dante, Milton, Shakespeare, the Bible—if they were just written would be accepted by any publisher today. These books appear now only because of prestige and past acclaim. Thousands of manuscripts pour into the publishing firms daily, but whether they be good or bad, only one or two can be accepted. Some of even the good ones are rejected with only a glance like a peddler who comes to your door with something you think you don't want. Thus, many a rotten book is published because the publisher thinks it will sell. And he's often fooled.

IF YOU don't get your book accepted and you are determined to see it in print, your next recourse will be to a publisher who charges you for getting it out. He will market it, etc. at your expense. But frankly, I have yet to hear a good word said for this by anyone who gets a book out this way. All I have heard are tales of money lost. I know that my friends in the publishing game are going to roast me for this, but, I also think it is awful for anyone to work hard preparing a book and then to lose his money on top of it. My advice, therefore, is not to pay to publish your book, unless the thrill of seeing yourself in print outweighs your sorrow at loss of your money. The young professor told me that he, himself, had taken 500 orders for his book, orders that had been paid for and yet he hadn't received a cent. And this was a reputable firm, but the cost of printing, overhead, etc. had eaten up everything—and he was still in debt.

LAST RESORT

The last thing left, then, is to publish your own book. This, as the young professor rightly said, is looked down upon. Such are called "vanity" books. But the independent soul will not care what others think. Some of the world's greatest books, and music, too, turned down by the publishers, because they did not cater to a vulgar public, were published by the authors, among them Schopenhauer's immortal "World As Will And Idea." Upton Sinclair, one of America's greatest writers, also publishes his own books. His "The Jungle," published by himself caused a tremendous upheaval in the packing industry.

I HAVE been publishing my own books since 1917, and, perhaps, my experience along that line will help. First of all. It hadn't the slightest concern about what people would think. I had written a book, "From Superman To Man," which I felt was good and necessary (of course, all authors feel that way), and when the publishers refused it on a royalty basis, and others asked so much to print and market it, I merely took it to a printer, had an estimate on it, saved up enough money, and set him to work on it. Paul Laurence Dunbar had done that with his first book, and made a success of it. I felt that I could do it, too.

My book was a success from the start. I have a strong disinclination to salesmanship of any sort, but my friends liked the book and did the pushing of it for me. Unlike Dunbar, I wouldn't even get up in public to say a word in its favor, at least at first, but it sold just the same. Negroes were interested in getting white people to read it. One housemaid took it to her mistress, an instructor at the University of Chicago, and the latter not only placed it on the required reading list for her classes, but bought 14 copies and sent them to leading educators in parts of the country. And there were many other such cases. Since then, everything I have written has been a best seller. If I ever get interested in marketing, salesmanship and money—I could be a very rich man from my books. And they sell chiefly on the recommendation of those who read them. Except for my ad in The Courier, I do almost no advertising.

THERE IS another Negro who has made a success—a financial success—of publishing his own books and who has been in the game longer than I, and that is Oscar Micheaux. I met Micheaux around 1912 and he has been climbing since that time. He is a very good salesman, gets up attractive circulars, and goes over the country selling his books. This, you may set down as a positive fact: Negroes will buy books—and buy them eagerly too—if you have what they want in them—especially things they want said, things white publishers are afraid to print, lest they hurt both their friends and their enemies. I have yet to read any book put out by any of the leading white publishers which has cut down to the real core of the color problem. Is this an exaggeration? Well, I read the little known scientific journals, especially on psychology and psychiatry, and I frequently find in them nothing left unsaid—and by white people, too. The regular publishers would never dare to put in their books things of that sort for popular reading. There would be a great howl against them, particularly in the South. As for the scientific journals, they are read chiefly by professionals in their particular field as the mere name of these journals frightens off most laymen.

Next week, I shall say more on this subject of publishing, which is so important to many. I shall tell of ways and means, cost, etc. In the meantime, I think I have shown that there is not only no stigma to self-publishing but that it can be made into a success—if you have the right stuff in your book.

SEP 13 1943

BOOK REVIEW
Philadelphia, P

BY TED STANFORD

WORLD'S GREATEST MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT. By J. A. Rogers. 79 pp. Booklet. Illustrated. J. A. Rogers Historical Researches. 37 Morningside Ave. New York. $1.00.

NOV 13 1943

FROM SUPERMAN TO MAN. By J. A. Rogers. 128 *pp. J. A. Rogers Historical Researches.* 37 *Morningside Avenue New York.* $1.50.

SEX AND RACE. Volume I. The Old World. By J. A. Rogers. 301 *pp. Profusely illustrated. J. A. Rogers Historical Researches.* 37 *Morningside Avenue, New York City.* $3.00.

NOV 13 1943

STANFORD

Any serious Negro book reviewer should devote at least one column each year to a general contemplation and discussion of the major historical works of J. A. Rogers. In the evening of a civilization that is rapidly disintegrating under the hammer blows of racial antagonism, the considered studies of this able black historian sound a clarion reminder of the ethnic unity of all mankind.

NOV 13 1943

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT, a neatly conceived advance edition of fuller volumes to come, was first circulated around 1931. It dealt exclusively with the historical influences of noteworthy black men of Europe and Africa. Among them figured: Akhenaton, Egyptian monarch, lord of the then civilized world, and father of the illustrious Tut-Ankh-Amen; Mulai Ismail, powerful ruler of Morocco, whose ships raided the coasts of Western Europe and Southern England for white slaves (Is mail used 25,000 Caucasian slaves in the building of his city of Meknes); General Alexander Dumas, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of France during the turbulent year 1793, and one time superior officer of Napoleon; Alessandro de Medici Duke of Florence, and son-in-law of the Emperor Charles V.

NOV 13 1943

FROM SUPERMAN TO MAN is an irrefutable argument against the theory and practice of white superemacy. The colume received its first imprint in the year 1917, at a time when the greed-maddened statesmen of Europe and America had convulsed the world in an orgy of blood. It issued an appeal for sane interracial understanding, at a moment when the industrial princes of the capitalist West fought to decide with particular combination of Caucasion power should dominate the throne-room of that oppressive imperialist structure which rested on the prostrate bodies of Asia and Africa.

NOV 13 1943

FROM Superman To Man offers conclusive evidence that its author is fully capable of that literary facility, breadth of perspective, and profound scholarship which is required of the revolutionary black historian. The whole cancerous anatomy of Caucasian racist philosophy is artfully dissected. Rogers lays aside the duller instruments of dry historical presentation. In their stead, the employs the scalpel of incisive and forceful-ly moving fiction to lay bare the false flesh of that doctrine upon which the white ban bases his repressive and unscientific claims of racial superiority.

NOV 13 1943

Volume I of SEX AND RACE opened its leaves upon an era of broadening chaos, a time of ripening insanity. Again was flamed across the European continent. The threat of world cinflict, on a scale vaster than any ever visualized, fattened in every morning's newspaper.

NOV 13 1943

VOLUME ISSUED ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY FISK UNIVERSITY

Nashville, Tenn.

Book Is Symposium On "Cultural Process" In Education

Globe & Independent

DEC 10 1943

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (ANP)—"Education and the Cultural Process" is the title of a volume just off the press and containing the papers presented at the distinguished symposium which commemorated the 75th anniversary of the founding of Fisk university. Edited by Dr. Charles S. Johnson, the new book presents the views a group of foremost sociologists and anthropologists on education and the progress of our educational efforts in the transmission of culture.

"The contributions to this symposium," said Dr. Johnson in his foreword comment, "raises many serious questions for education and at the same time offer some significant suggestions. The papers dealing with the special cultures clearly describe the process of 'education without schools.' The papers dealing with the educational procedure under our highly rationalized system describe what might almost be called 'schools without education.' "The difficulties and possibilities of acculturation, which the American society involves the im-migrant, the Jews, the Oriental and various other religious sect, and various culturally isolated groups, appear in clearest outline in the case of the American Negro who is more covert-ly segregated," he continued.

Those who presented papers included Margaret Mead, American of Natural history, author Museum and authority on anthropology; Chicago; Ruth Benedict, Columbia University; Melville J. Herskovits, Northwestern university; Horace Mann Bond, Ft. Valley State college; the late Bronislaw Malinowski London; Mark Hanna Watkins, Robert E. Park, Scudder Mekeel, Edgar T. Thompson, Hortense Powdermaker and Edwin R. Embree.

8-1943

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago. Ill

By BEN BURNS

China And Race

"THE PROMISE" by Pearl S. Buck. John Day Co. $2.50.

AMONG those intelligent, fair-minded, far-seeing Americans who have had the clear vision to see without prejudice the nefarious crimes committed by our nation in the name of racial superiority, Pearl Buck has always been in the forefront. Her speeches and articles on the race question are unsurpassed.

Now comes a novel, a sequel to her "Dragon Seed," which blasts away at discrimination with a fury and anger unmatched by any writer of the past decade. "The Promise" is a blanket denunciation of both British and Americans in the Far East who have so haughtily considered themselves the master race and lorded it over the colored peoples.

Miss Buck is telling the story of the Chinese armies who went to the rescue of trapped British armies in Burma during the Japanese offensive in that war arena. She weaves her story skillfully around the love of Sheng, one of the Chinese army officers, and Mayli, an American-educated Chinese nurses. The bitter disappointments and double-cross that the Chinese face from their own Allies is portrayed without a single attempt to mitigate the failures of the Allies.

One of the most anguishing episodes tells of the Chinese rescue of a British detachment who blow up a bridge behind them trapping their Chinese allies who are slaughtered by the Nipponese.

While "The Promise" makes a powerful plea, its writing is not up to the standard of such novels as "The Good Earth" and "Dragon Seed." It also seems to this reviewer that Miss Buck in her good-intentioned zeal on the race issue goes so far overboard that she has totally failed to leave any hope for betterment. Hers is a dismal, defeatist picture that completely neglects whatever steps have been taken for racial amity. At the present moment when the world looks ahead to some reproachment among the Allies, particularly with China, her book is a blow to unity of the democracies.

But these failures notwithstanding, "The Promise" is a grim reminder that color is a world issue on which Allies cannot stall and stammer, lest World War III become a race war.

Wartime Society

"AMERICAN SOCIETY IN WARTIME" Edited by William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago Press. $2.50

THIS COLLECTION of Walgreen Foundation lectures by distinguished University of Chicago sociology professors is primarily a pedagogic survey of the effects of the war on American life. Replete with statistics and comprehensive footnotes, it remains too much of a sterile, stolid study that is detached from what might be termed the emotional war-time attitude of the man in the street. There is too much of the tome and thesis prose that marks professorial writing.

But it has its values to the scholar who will some day want to look back at these trying days for an objective gauge of the times. There are articles on such diverse subjects as race, Japanese, farming, crime and the army. The authors are the top men in their fields—but unfortunately pedagogues to the bitter end.

Strictly For Adults

"BARNABY," by Crockett Johnson. Henry Holt & Co., N. Y. $2.

FOR THOSE jolly folks who secretly envy the children their comic books, here is the answer to a prayer. For "Barnaby," which is the chronicle of a little lad and his fairy godfather, is strictly adult stuff.

This is a collection of the strips that have delighted PM readers with the adventures of Mr. O'Malley in politics of late, but in past months is such sundry affairs as rationing, scrap collections, blackouts and other wartime problems.

As one Barnaby fan to the uninitiated, "Cushlamochree!"

BOOK
Philadelphia Tribune
REVIEW
Philadelphia, Pa.

BY TED STANFORD

Christmas Books For Children

MR. BUMPS AND HIS MONKEY. By Walter De La Mare. 69 pp. Illustrated. John C. Winston Co. $2.00

DRAGON JOHN. By Marie A. Lawson. 52 pp. Illustrated. Viking Press. New York City. $1.50.

THE WATER - BUFFALO CHILDREN. By Pearl S. Buck. 60 pp. John Day Company. New York City. $1.50.

JACK HORNER AND SONG OF SIXPENCE. Drawings and Foreword by Emily Barto. Unpaged. Illustrated. Longmans Green & Company.

THE GOOD-LUCK HORSE. By Chih-Yi Chan and Plato Chan. Unpaged. Illustrated. Whittlesey House. New York City. $1.50.

TELLTIME THE RABBIT. By William Hall. Unpaged. Illustrated. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. New York City.

The tale of Jasper, an incomparable little West African monkey, is one of the most poignant and delightful of the newer stories for young children.

STANFORD

Mr. Bumps, an English sailor, purchased Jasper from the chief of the Mlango - Nlangoes. The vents of Jasper's life in England, and the account of his return to his favorite African shores, are related with matchless sensitivity and imagination. Walter Dt La Mare, long acclaimed as the children's poet-laureate, has excelled himself in this work.

Marie A. Lawson spins the strange tale of a smallish young dragon who was very lonely and unhappy, but who, in the end, came to a great and lasting joy. John, the wistful and only amenable dragon, was in reality a prince who had been changed into a beast by a mean and most spiteful witch. Through the kindness of a blind but beautiful little goose-girl Dragon John was restored to human form nd blessed by human love. Miss Lawson has decorated the volume with many beautiful and original drawings in color.

Miss Buck explores the treasure house of her childhood in China, and weaves a magic tale for tiny listeners. Her story of Da Lobo, the Water-Buffalo, and of Farmer Ching's son and daughter, the Water - Buffalo children, offers a pleasurable opportunity to acquaint wee tots with the ways of folk in a far and exotic corner of this earth.

In England, 400 years go, few people could read or write. One method that the common people used to express their opinions was the singing of humorous songs called "lampoons." The lampoons JACK HORNER and SONG OF SIXPENCE were sung in the time of King Henry VIII. They were sung in ridicule of a clever and unscrupulous man, Horner by name. For generations, these lampoons have been sung to children in the form of nursery jingles. Miss Barto has re-collected them here, and has decked them out in many humorous original pen-and-ink drawings.

For centuries Chinese boys and girls have been enraptured by the legend of THE GOOD-LUCK HORSE. Now, for the first time, it is made available to American young people. The legend has been adapted by the wife of a member of the Chinese Diplomatic Corps, and is illustrated in color by her 12 year-old son.

TELLTIME was a little rabbit who had one long and one short ear. The ears of this little rabbit looked just like the hands of a clock. Instead of considering this a misfortune, TELLTIME used his ears to tell the time. The delightful manner in which he did so is graphically illustrated in Mr. Hall's book. Aside from its appeal as pleasure-packed reading for young folk, the volume is arranged in such manner as to lend valuable assistance to your efforts to teach Junior the rudiments of telling the time.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago. Ill

By BEN BURNS

Retreat From Reality

"RETREAT FROM ROSTOV" by Paul Hughes. Random House, New York. $2.75.

PAUL HUGHES is a 27-year-old Oklahoma newspaperman with a bad case of asthma that keeps him off the hinterland of New Mexico.

"I am not very useful in the present conflict, but I can keep score," he says in an autobiographical note in his first novel using the Russian war as a background. Reading his bulky work leaves some very serious doubts on whether Hughes can keep score, but certainly none on Hughes' ability to write.

"Retreat from Rostov" is a very sad, far-fetched and naive portrait of Soviet life and its heroic war effort. A man from Mars could have written this alleged picture about Russia about as convincingly as the novelist from Oklahoma. Hughes lacks any basic knowledge about the Soviets. He does not know the score on what is happening in that courageous country.

But he has made a heroic effort to compensate for his failure to comprehend what is going on with a thrilling, dramatic story that is skillfully and cleverly plotted. Hughes has a fine feel for writing. He can paint character, set a scene and best of all tell a story with exciting, pulse-throbbing speed.

His choice of Russia, much as that remarkable country needs more and more explanation, is all the more unfortunate for that reason. Set loose in his native land, he should be a first rate novelist.

In "Retreat from Rostov" Hughes has created a vast canvas against which he sets up the p[illegible] of the valiant defenders of the big Russian city as well as the crass, cruel Nazi invaders. His characters range from an Eric Von Stroheim-like Nazi colonel to a multitude of Soviet guerrilla fighters who finally rout the Germans from their city through their stubborn tenacity.

Hughes attempts to go deeply into military strategy and tactics but falls down sadly with his over-simplification for the layman. His over-sexing of the story and the too oft vulgarization of human suffering for a just cause leaves a bad taste.

In contrast with a monumental work like "The Last Days of Sevas-

Radio Tokio Calling

"THE AXIS ON THE AIR" by Harold Ettlinger. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. $2.75.

"THE AMERICANS are giving Axis speaking. Over a network of short wave bands that cover the globe, the Japanese and Germans are re-Tokio as part of his job of writing the Axis propaganda be-the column, "The Axis on the Air," Ettlinger is just enough truthin the Chicago Sun.

A penetrating study of how the Axis is able to cash in on United Nations' lack of foresight in clean-ing their own house is furnished in it to be effective.

Axis is able to cash in on United Nations' lack of foresight in clean-ing their own house is furnished in it to be effective.

Wilhelmstrasse and destroy of the United Nations. Unfortunately too many racial zeal-in Harold Ettlinger's excellent book country are too willing "The Axis of the Air." The work the Axis with potentis based on more than a year of on and too often Chineselistening to the voice of Berlin and ns and Negroes are re-Tokio as part of his job of writing the Axis propaganda be-the column, "The Axis on the Air," re is just enough truthin the Chicago Sun.

art of a grand strategy ed in the Detroit race riots.

How the Axis distorts, twists, and perverts the news through a lowly technique that has too often outsmarted the United Nations is told by Ettlinger, a former foreign correspondent who was in Spain when the Loyalists were defeated by the combined might of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco.

The truth will out, however, and through the simple use of the truth we have been fighting an increasingly successful radio battle against the Axis

Ettlinger's book is a strong war weapon because it not only shows how strong and how wily the Axis radio is, but because it emphasizes what our job is in this battle and blueprints a democratic program to conquer the Axis radio along with its military might.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago. Ill

By BEN BURNS

Laughs In Liberia

"TOP HATS AND TOM-TOMS" by Elizabeth Dearmin Furbay. Ziff-Davis Co., Chicago. $3.

LIBERIA is a dilemma for the American Negro. Taken too often as a model of what Negroes will do when given self-government, the little republic lately seems to be taking a comic relief role in the world scene. Either the Liberian government ought to get a good public relations man or else begin making democracy a reality.

Elizabeth Dearmin Furbay, wife of the former president of the College of West Africa, has written another one of those books that pictures Liberia as an Amos and Andy land. If one-tenth of what she writes is true, there is no question but what there is plenty to laugh at in the Liberian setup. Mrs. Furbay has a good sense of humor and a fine story-telling knack that lends itself to a bright hop-skip-and-jump travel yarn.

Although she is a missionary essentially, she makes no effort to moralize. She makes no pretense of being a student of government or the race problem but tells in an unassuming fashion what she saw during three years in Monrovia and an occasional trip into the back country.

"Top Hats and Tom-Toms" pictures Liberia as its title indicates—a country of ridiculous formality combined with ignorant savagery. It carries home a point made in the recent "Lighting Up Liberia" by Arthur Hayman and Harold Preece, Defender columnist — that the country is virtually a dictatorship by Americo-Liberians over the native population. The Jim Crow lines between the two are as rigid as white and Negro segregation in Mississippi.

In some ways a book like "Top Hats and Tom-Toms" is regrettable because of the damage done to integration efforts by American Negroes. Yet, it is only through expose and ridicule that perhaps enough sense can be pounded into Liberia's top hats. Maybe then they will begin to make the Negro republic a model of government, rather than a black mark against the Negro people throughout the world.

Fight for Freedom

"AMERICAN NEGRO SLAVE REVOLTS," By Herbert Aptheker. Columbia University Press. $4.50.

A THRILLING SAGA of black men's fight for freedom ever since that day in 1620, when the first Negroes landed in Virginia is told with painstaking, thorough care by Herbert Aptheker in a bulky volume, "American Negro Slave Revolts."

Aptheker has long been a student of Negro history and his current work climaxes years of research. His well-documented findings represent a blockbuster reply to that cockeyed fable about Negro slaves being submissive and contented, never having the desire for freedom. This super-race theory has been used too often to argue that Negroes do not deserve freedom because they won't fight for it.

The phoney legend is kayoed quite effectively by Aptheker who chronicles details of no less than 200 slave revolts that played a big part in winning eventual emancipation. He proves with unchallenged fact that the Negro's urge for freedom is no less—and perhaps more—persistent than white men's. Rebellion was a constant source of headaches for the slave masters particularly in the decade prior to the Civil War, and was a contributing factor to the final outbreak of armed battle between the North and South.

Aptheker is strictly a scholar—at least in this work. He has done an astounding amount of study that is incorporated in his book. But unfortunately he has written a heavy tome that will be read only by fellow scholars. The material he has collected is rich ore for half a dozen popularly-written books that can reach a far wider audience.

The story of heroes of history such as Vesey, Turner, Cato and Gabriel needs to be popularized in novels and well-done biographies. Here is a field that has not been touched yet. Where are the writers who will do the job?

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago. Ill

By BEN BURNS

Love And Slave Ships

"CAPTAIN EBONY" by Hamilton Cochran. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. $2.75.

IT IS NOT often that a pulp potboiler goes in for as rough and rugged a denunciation of slavery as vivid and vigorous "Captain Ebony." And when the author is as widely-read as Hamilton Cochran ("Wings Of Mercy") it is indeed happy news.

Too many historical novels of the American epoch in the new world have too often been in the magnolia blossom rut of "Gone With The Wind" et al. Cochran, whose works are strictly non-intellectual and designated for light housekeeping, has broken with this slanderous school and in a light-handed, romantic novel painted as black a picture of slavery as has been written since "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Against a background of slavers on the high seas, and has mounted a handsome love story of a hard-headed slave ship captain and a hard-cussing Abolitionist blonde from New England.

The story set in the Danish West Indies is strictly according to plup formula, exciting throughout and suspenseful until the last-page happy ending.

The happy couple, Captain David (Ebony for the slaver) and Chloer, decide to settel down on an Indies island, face a slave revolt against cruelty of planters, finally triumph in their grand showing good treatment to slaves brings loyalty.

While Cochran's intents are always anti-slave, he unfortunately constantly stoops into the pitfalls of anti-Negro stereotypes and does sadly with the racial mixture angle in the book. These serious errors notwithstanding, "Captain Ebony," still represents an advance in the pulp field and will be pointed reading for the type of audience it will probably reach.

* * *

Why Bataan?

"MOTHER AMERICA" by Col. Carlos P. Romulo. Doubleday, Doran & Co., N.Y. $2.50.

ONE of the unanswered riddles of World War II as fought by the Japanese in the Far East has been the unwavering loyalty of brown Filipinos to white Americans on Bataan while in every other instance color has sided with color on the battlefronts. In Burma, Hong Kong, the Dutch East Indies, Indo-China, men of color took the Nipponese invasion as their chance to get vengeance against their white imperialist overlords. They sided with the yellow men from Tokio.

But in the Philippines, white and brown fought a valiant battle together under General Douglas McArthur—a fight that will long be remembered in history for more reasons than one. For Bataan represented not only military valor. It was also symbolic of racial harmony.

Col. Romulo, a Filipino newspaperman who was one of McArthur's aides in the struggle, told the military story in "I Saw The Fall of the Philippines." In his newer book, "Mother America," he is telling perhaps the more significant story of why brown and white soldiers died shoulder to shoulder.

It is his contention that America in its years of rule over the Philippines made a model "parent." His book is the affirmative in a long-time debate regarding our role in the Far East. It is a rosy, beautiful picture he paints of "Mother America," but unfortunately unconvincing—especially to Negroes here at home.

While perhaps the United States has done better in the Philippines than in Puerto Rico or in Birmingham, or better than the British in India, our record is still far from adequate in this one time-Spanish possession. The record which Col. Romulo glosses over too wistfully is not pretty.

The brave colonel does make one valuable point—that is the need now for a completely revised attitude by the United Nations towards the questions of color and colonies if the world is to remain at peace after Hitler and Tojo have been crushed.

To maintain that benign American kindness is behind racial solidarity against the Japs is a libel against the good sense of the good Filipino people. It is a new brand of Far Eastern "Uncle Tomism." More logical, it seems, as the motive for the Filipino resistance is the intelligent realization that Nippon imperialism, even if colored, can be and is worse than the white American brand.

8-1943

Romanticized Revolution

DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT, *by Elswyth Thane. Duell, Sloan and Pearce. $2.50.*

ONE should, I suppose, try to forget the six-entry love tournament of sighs and kisses in *Dawn's Early Light,* because Miss Thane has also managed to give a rather clear picture of the progress of the American military campaign in the South during the Revolution. This was that amazing series of maneuvers of which (to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel") the old song tells:

Cornwallis led a country dance,
The like was never seen, Sir—
Much retrograde and much advance,
And all with General Greene, Sir!

But Mr. Howard Fast, I am afraid, has spoiled us all. We have become accustomed to viewing the Revolution in our novels through the eyes of men like Paine and Washington, attempting to reconstruct the problems of military and political strategy, the interplay of personality and "objective" factors, the nature of a people's war for independence that is at the same time a kind of civil war. Miss Thane is remote from this kind of historical novel writing. Primarily, she has wished to produce a period piece, combining a sentimental love tale with the nostalgic atmosphere of carefully reconstructed places and types from the past. But also she wished to make use of material of the Revolution, because of its richness and inherent meaningfulness. There is a delicate problem of photo-montage here, which is not at all lessened by the special duties of character-evaluation and event-weighing imposed by the material.

Miss Thane has chosen to treat the war as the background of the love tale. Young Julian Day comes to Williamsburg, Va., as a staunch Loyalist. The war puts him to the test, and he finally comes out right side up and engaged to boot. He is motivated by a simple, new-found nationalism and by *l'amour,* and these are more or less the motivations of the entire cast of Williamsburgers, with the exception of a few like Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry whom we meet far too casually. The point of view of this little group of aristocrats is quite clear: we live here, this is our country, and we fight for our native soil. By identifying herself with this view of the Revolution, Miss Thane reduces her problem to the lowest common denominator. But it is just here, I feel, that she makes her chief mistake. By committing herself to the outlook of this class in this place, she dooms her book to a mediocrity of conception, and is forced to rely too much on romantic intrigue and sentimentality.

Another distressing result is the uncritical picture which we get of the old South. It is the *fine old South,* of course, where the Negro slaves grin ecstatically under the yoke, where the young men are all seven-footers and gallant as rapiers, and where the girls are all cream and velvet. Patrick Henry, who might have been used to indicate the element of popular revolutionary sentiment in Virginia, is looked upon by the hero as a rabble-rouser. The pale figures of the great political leaders are barely perceptible against the mauve background of bathos and boudoir. The military leaders naturally do what history says they did; but as *characters,* they are all just *darlings,* if I read Miss Thane's mind aright: honest, cursing, laughing Greene; and Lafayette, so French, so understanding of a woman's heart; and Marion, so wistful in his admiration of the hero's manly beauty . . . dear lads all!

It would have been better had Miss Thane subordinated the local color and the picture of the typical aristocratic rebl's frame of mind, and placed a great deal more emphasis on an effective intelligence like that of Jefferson or Henry or perhaps Greene, whom she might easily have made the hero instead of the piece of mutton who *is* the hero. The author would then be at a point of special vantage, above the highest level of the book, so to speak. Instead, she has identified herself with a kind of intelligence which hardly understood what was going on, and must compensate by detailed accuracy of setting and by imaginary reconstructions of battle-scenes, as well as by the over-stressed, endlessly hackneyed love affair.

MICHAEL ROBERTS.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.
SEP 7 1943

SEP 7 1943

SEP 7 1943

SEP 7 1943

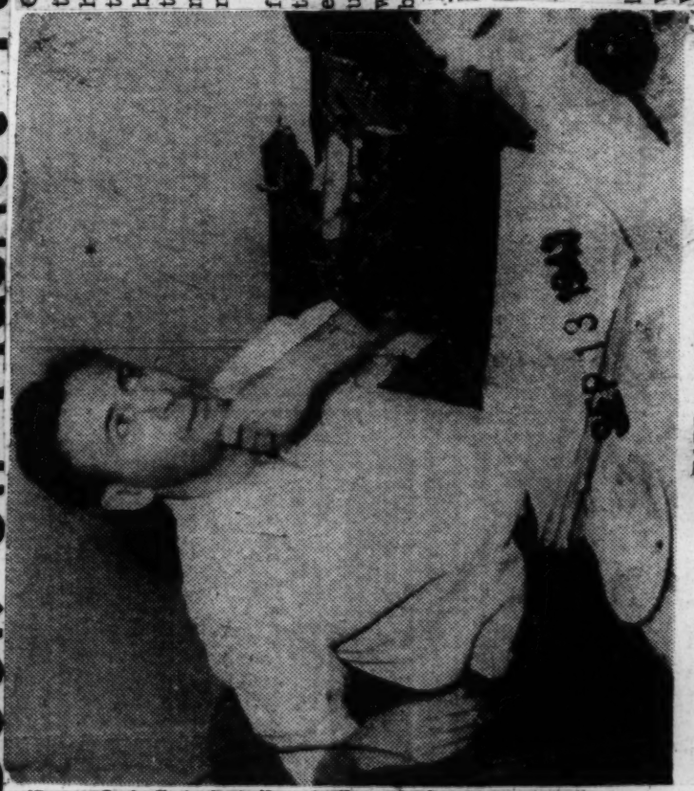
Writes History
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
DEC 4

PROF. MERLE R. EPPSE, chairman of the division of social studies and professor of history at Tenn. State College, whose recent book, The Negro, Too, in American History, has been hailed by reviewers as a worthy contribution of historical research which he visualizes as an intimate-world to gain material for book

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.
Color Barrier Is Bar To Democratic Way of Life
NOV 13 1943

Roi Ottley Negro journalist, will leave shortly on a trip around the world to gather material for a book which Doubleday Doran is soon to bring out.

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.
Roi Ottley Takes Trip Around World



Newspaperman Is Inspired by Heroine Of His Book on Harriet Tubman

By Beth McHenry

Two years of research and two years of writing brought Earl Conrad's heroic life of Harriet Tubman (now just off the press) to the hoped-for manuscript stage and according to Mr. Conrad that was the moment when his greatest troubles began.

For one publisher after another turned down the life story of this American Joan of Arc and the young author told us yesterday his life became just a series of rejection slips. The post-man was his nemesis, but Earl Conrad kept on haunting publishers until finally Harriet Tubman emerged in print—issued by the Associated Publishers just the other day.

Earl Conrad, who lives with his wife and a half year old son Mike in a Washington Heights apartment where the neighbor's sounds are no secret, is happy and proud about "Harriet."

NONE LIKE HER

He says there is no other woman in all of America's history who measures up to Harriet Tubman and he's piled up a lot of evidence to prove his point. He points out that she epitomizes and symbolizes the struggle of the Negro people in America better than any other person and that she is the only woman on this side of the Atlantic who is known actually to have led soldiers on the field of battle.

Earl Conrad is a 36-year old American newspaperman who came

EARL CONRAD
Negro life and Negro history, is Pub-Hyland, author of "The Dove
NOV 13 1943

Earl Conrad is a thin young man with a sensitive face and tense manner-isms. He's the type who gets into a drive and when he gets into his stride his hearn captures his audience. He's no sleep on his account, there's no sleep on his account, practically. That was the way he was with Harriet Tubman, and Now, instead of breathing deep and resting he's already beginning to put into form a long cherished idea—a book about twelve years ago shaped for an epic novel of Negro life in their Life-in-America series. Mr. Conley's first book, "New World A-Coming."

You could spot Conrad for a Jean-Coming."

his conscience on the subject con-siderably and he began to do re-search and write articles about

The First Reader

World-Telegram

By HARRY HANSEN

New York, N. Y.

Harriet Tubman, by Earl Conrad, Tells Story of the 'Moses of Her Race'—Negro Slave Leader in Underground Railway

Harriet Tubman was a Negro slave on Maryland's Eastern Shore who became a leader in the Underground Railway before the civil war and led so many blacks to freedom in the North that she was called "the Moses of her race." Earl Conrad has done a commendable service in writing her biography, **Harriet Tubman,** thus recalling to our generation facts about her life that were known well to the Garrisons, Higginsons, Susan B. Anthony and to abolitionists and woman's suffrage leaders of the 19th century. Resourceful, indomitable, strong, Harriet Tubman was an example of greatness in a humble sphere.

Born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland, around 1820, Harriet married a free Negro named Tubman when she was 24. He had taken his name from the family he had served. She retained it, even after a disillusioning episode. After her original escape north, in 1849, she made a trip back to get her husband and found that he had gaily transferred himself to another woman. He was a Negro who whistled, remarks the author, and he "went whistling to another cabin." She left him behind.

* * *

Out from Slavery.

The devices by which Harriet managed to get Negroes out from slavery to Philadelphia and Canada were various. She would take children out with a load of vegetables. Older Negroes were often advised to make the first day's trip in their master's buggy, since no one would suspect that they were making an escape in a vehicle well known in their neighborhood. When Harriet's activities became known rewards were offered for her capture and on one occasion she fell asleep under a placard advertising for her. On another occasion she opened a book and pretended to read while men looking for her passed before her. They remarked that the woman they wanted couldn't read. This was true, and Harriet hoped her book was right side up. On another occasion when Harriet and her party met searchers on a station platform she deliberately took a train going south and thus avoided suspicion.

She supported John Brown's raid, but was too ill at the time to take part. She was helped by the Quakers and the abolitionists and sent many families to Canada. In Troy, N. Y., she took part in a spectacular rescue of a Negro who was being taken back to slavery, dragging him away from his guards and putting him into a boat. Her later life was passed in Auburn, N. Y. She lived chiefly in poverty in her old age, and yet raised enough money to buy property for a home for Negroes which was opened in 1908. She died there in 1913, when she must have been over 90."

Earl Conrad has told her story simply and sympathetically. I don't like his statement that this is a book that "the white publishers would not issue," because it suggests prejudice. Possibly they wouldn't for reasons that have nothing to do with the subject. There are books by Negroes on the lists of leading publishers including Viking Press, Harper & Bros., Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., Harcourt, Brace, etc., and Roi Ottley's **New World A-Coming** was issued by the Houghton Mifflin Co. only a few weeks ago. This book is issued by Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 Ninth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. ($3.25).

'White Face' Draws Further Comment

Daily Worker

New York, N. Y.

Dear Editor:

Claudia Jones's review of "The White Face" by Carl Ruthven Offord which appeared in The Sunday Worker calls for comment. The reviewer says that the book should be read. But the review fails to give any supporting reason for this remark. It remains for others to point out why "The White Face" should be read.

First of all, "The White Face" is an anti-fascist book. Its primary concern is the struggle of the Negro people and their natural allies on the home front against domestic fascism. The program for the people as set forth in the book is unity of all the people in the struggle for Negro equality and against fascism.

Chris and Nella, husband and wife, are the central figures in "The White Face." As the story unfolds they become politically divided under pressure from subversive elements active in Harlem. The husband succumbs to the negative appeal of division and hate, the wife emerges strong, and united with the progressive forces including the trade unions, the Jewish People's Committee, the Communist Party. The book must also be lauded for recognizing the developing progressive forces of the South. Further, the progressives are shown in action holding mass meetings, flooding the streets with leaflets, sending delegations to the State Capitol and arousing support in Washington.

The reviewer states, "The setting for the story undoubtedly begins around 1937 . . ." but later contradicts herself saying, "Nowhere does any Negro progressive show that only through the framework of the war effort can the right of the Negro people be advanced. . . ." The book clearly indicated that the story begins and ends in the few months prior to Pearl Harbor and that the country was geared for National Defense. This unclarity as to the time-setting of the book contributes confusion to the review.

The reviewer quotes a Negro leader as saying, "White Americans think chiefly of the fascists abroad. Black Americans think chiefly of fascists at home. The battle must be fought against . . . but the greater danger is from the fascists abroad." Here the reviewer deleted the key sentence of that very paragraph which said, "If we should have to live under the Germans or Japanese, a meeting like this would be impossible." This deletion enabled the reviewer to accuse the author of having presented a case of the lesser evil. It was equivalent to setting up a straw man and knocking him down.

Finds a Groundless Implication

Further, there was in Claudia Jones review the groundless implication that the author regarded the Scottsboro case as a "build-up." This implication was based on a quote from a white character who was erroneously credited with being a part of the defense movement for Negro rights. The quote was, speaking of publicity, "Loads of it, Tons of it, something on the lines of a Scottsboro build-up. . . ." To interpret this as meaning that interest in the Scottsboro case was artificially created was a labored distortion.

The reviewer said, "Moreover, nowhere does any Negro character reveal his understanding that fascism is the enemy of the Negro people.' And yet, I quote from page 270:

"He (Stevenson, a Negro leader) talked about fascism, and again she tried to grasp the meaning of the word. It was the bankers, he said, and the plantation owners, who were the makers of fascism. Money-power was the God they worshipped. They lived and thrived by the sweat and the blood and the tears of their fellow men. That was fascism, the enemy . . . Nella nodded. . . . Now she could say Mr. Harris was a fascist."

Not the least important aspect of "The White Face" is its outstanding contribution to the struggle for women's rights. "The White Face" is a luminous record of the courage, the constancy, the special understanding and the reserves of power the women of America, Negro and white, bring to the struggle for democracy.

"The White Face" is a forceful weapon against the Coughlinites and other counterparts of native fascism and its timeliness is brought home to us by the bloody pogroms against the Negroes in Detroit. In times such as these it would indeed be deplorable if we failed to give it its proper evaluation.

Comradely,

PATRICIA KENNEDY.

Editor's Note: The above letter by Patricia Kennedy summarizes a number of letters which have come into the Feature Department taking issue with Claudia Jones' review of "The White Face."

Christian James, another reader plugging for Carl Offord's novel, wrote in part: "To overlook the outstanding character portrayal in the book with its almost overwhelming implications of new growth and strength is not easy to understand in a Worker review. The author's obvious concern with and understanding of the 'woman question,' for instance is laudable."

Another reader, who signs himself "A Sunday Worker Subscriber" says in part: "I disagree with the reviewer's comments on an overemphasis on anti-Semitism and on her criticism of Mr. Offord's lack of solution and neglect of working within the framework of the war.' Mr. Offord poses a solution in the statements of his characters; to wit, unity of all working class people against their real enemies, the fascists. And foremost in his development of the truly heroic character of Nella."

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

A Story Of Harlem, Too Sensational

For Its Own Good

THE DARK STAIN, by Benjamin [illegible]. Published by The Dial Press, 365 pages, $2.75.

A consciousness of race discrimination has swept the country in recent years and is steadily gaining momentum. For a time, the Negro question was practically a literary taboo. "Native Son" aroused the thinking public, then the question rested, rather uneasily. Of late, more and more authors have dared to broach the problem. This trend of thought began to be reflected in fiction, sometimes delicately, more often forcefully giving one side of the many-faceted issue. Bucklin Moon's "The Darker Brother" gave a sympathetic hearing to the individual black, caught in a web of circumstances beyond his control.

"The Dark Stain" gives an overall view not only of Negro and white discrimination, but of the underground work of various Fascist groups, attempting to destroy unity in this country by fomenting trouble among the Negroes, the Jews, the Italians and the Irish. This novel was evidently intended as a terrific expose of forces working to arouse discontent and violence in every city in the United States. It just misses being a fictional "Under Cover." The gangster element is so strong, the filth-thriller parts so pronounced, that the effect is somewhat muffled.

It is mainly the story of Sam Miller, a white, Jewish, college-bred, policeman, who, in his line of duty in Harlem, is forced to kill a crazed Negro. Negro sentiment is aroused against him by pamphlets issued by a white Fascist group, operating under the name of the American Research Association.

He gets a leave of absence, and does a little private detecting of his own, aided by the Harlem Equality League, a Negro group which is sincerely attempting to promote better relations between whites and blacks. The plot is involved, filled with suspense, thrills, and real interest.

The characters are well-drawn, especially the more violent variety. There is Marian Burrow, who in her intense hate for all whites, involved herself with [illegible] with "bad blacks" that she becomes a psychopathic case. There are Big Boy Bose, vice lord of Harlem; Bill Trent, the scar-faced, yellow gangster, and his beautiful wife, Isabelle, and Haydn Norris, son of a rich man, and an international Fascist, who controls the New York organization. There are ex-Gov. Heney, a suave, Southern rabble-rouser, active in the national organization, and Darton, a former Red, proficient in the manufacture of stink bombs, the printing of pamphlets, and his men, who do the dirty work.

"The Dark Stain" is not a pleasant novel. It is a prediction of headlines to come, and of the reasons behind those headlines. It is filled with almost photographic, word-pictures. It gives a most effective description of mental wanderings under stress, of psychopathic tendencies and of the snapping of threads of normal control. Its return on the technique of thriller fiction alone keeps it from being a great book of psychological and racial problems.—M. D.

Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

WRITE BOOKS ON RIOT PREVENTION

NEW YORK, Aug. 26—With interracial tensions mounting in many American cities, North and South, two Detroit social scientists have written a book that outlines a practical "race-riot prevention program," which is called prevailing "air raid precautions" programs. The authors are: Drhas just been published by the Alfred McClung Lee and Dr. Nor[illegible] NAACP

Baltimore [illegible]

NAACP PUBLISHES HASTIE PAMPHLET ON [illegible]

NEW YORK, Aug. 26—"On Clipped Wings," a pamphlet by Judge William H. Hastie dealing with jim crow in the Army Air Corps, has been published by the NAACP

8-1943

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

About Books

By CONSTANCE H. CURTIS

Many books written by white authors dealing with the lives of Negroes bid for a hold on the readers' interests by means of playing up all that is "sensational" in black men's lives. They take you to the outposts of civilization, such as the no-longer-existant Savoy ballroom in New York or to Beale Street in Memphis. There one is allowed to watch the peculiar goings on of a race apart. This is a common approach to the Negro and even some writers of our own race have been guilty of such treatment.

Buckli[illegible] author of The Darker B[illegible] Doran; New York; $2.50, has managed to show a fundamental sincerity in his novel. There is none of the clutching at obvious drama, but rather an attempt to talk of Negroes as he has known them.

In many ways the author has been successful in portraying the thoughts and feelings of a Southern family which is uprooted and set down in New York City. The opening chapters of the book are full of life and swift moving, lucid prose that is often reminiscent of Richard Wright. Ben Johnson, who is the "darker brother" of the story, is, at the opening of the story, one of the most alive and engaging people I have ever met in a novel.

Prejudice In N. Y.

As Mr. Moon comes to grips with the race theme in New York his story begins to weaken at first nearly imperceptibly, until it loses much of its force at the end of the volu[illegible]

He has made clearly that this city fails in many ways to offer a full life to its Negro citizens. There is prejudice here, just as there is throughout the country; and there is hate, offensive on the part of whites, defensive among Negroes. The effects of this continual pressure is shown in the reactions of his characters, but here-I believe, lie some of the most important weaknesses of the book.

Too many of the characters find adjustment to the North in death only. This is perhaps an easy way out, but it is not the true one.

In matters dealing with stark action the author can write, and hold the attention of the reader as he does it. However, when Mr. Moon deals with the fundamental concepts which motivate the actions of our race—the matter in which we work out our destinies—I believe he is wrong. To end on a note of hope in the midst of a world struggle which persistently excludes the black man from its plans, is to be our optimistic.

Crow Peace

Although the author can find a troubled peace in a southern Army camp I do not agree with him. The closing chapter of the novel, in which the author has his hero find a real and deep patriotism which flares in hatred against the Japanese, and a feeling of belonging in a jim crow army, was for me the weakest chapter in the book. Soldiers, black and white, have found a oneness and unity of feeling together on the battlefield, but it is not an easy readjustment. It is a hard earned feeling and one which must be built with the same care that has been expended in erecting a barrier between the races.

Mr. Moon has written a novel filled with real drama and has peopled it with characters that live, but he has not known Negroes long or well enough. In some of the fundamentals which I have mentioned and in such small matters as the treatment of dialect, Mr. Moon has failed. Perhaps he would have to spend his life with us and even change the color of his skin a little in order to do all of these things. But then, who could expect that of even the most inspired writer?

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

About Books

By CONSTANCE H. CURTIS

Corner the softest-spoken man and he will lash out. All men will fight as a last resort to save themselves [illegible] the things which are important to them. The average Negro knows the swelling feeling that borders on active hate at the continued frustrations he faces in trying to keep those things he loves most, freedom and the rights which go with it. We walk carefully through the days and nights to keep from exploding. Explosions are dramatic but they are also more destructive than worthwhile.

Lin Yutang, scholarly and witty Chinese writer, is one of the last people one would expeqt to explode. Nevertheless, in his book, "Between Tears and Laughter" (John Day, $2.50), he does exactly that. And in losing his temper he loses some of his [illegible]

[illegible] and Facts

The author has all of the weight of right on his side when he speaks of the continued insults and affronts China has received from the Allies. But he tells of these with a deep bitterness and anger which makes him belittle most things Western and magnify all things Chinese. This is unfortunate. The Eastern world has much that the West can profit from, but China has learned and can still learn from the West also. In his anger Lin Yutang forgets that. There can be no peace for the world until we learn to respect each other, all races, all colors, all environments. It is as bad for a person who is down-trodden to forget this fact as it is for those who are the oppressors.

China is a country which must be reckoned with in the days that are on us now. It is not going to stand the continued insults of the white nations and the slaps which America, along with Britain, has continued to give it. Mr. Lin Yutang does a lot to change words in speaking the mind of his people. He states that China intends to take its place along with the other nations of the world, even though another war must follow this one. He has put into words what many of us have been thinking.

The author is a skillful writer. His wit shines on every page as he mixes his "tears with laughter." Many of the thrusts he makes at those who oppress or ignore his country strike familiar chords in the mind of a Negro. Through a great deal of the volume, parallels can be drawn between his people and ours. We are both of the darker races.

The Common Man

Lin Yutang has an abiding belief in the common man, the man who makes up the masses of the earth. Through him, and the fundamental interests which all peoples have he believes that we can build a good world and a peaceful one. The bureaucrats and "dealers in figures" must be removed so that the masses of the earth can learn the facts and work together for the good of all.

In reading the volume it becomes more and more obvious, as Pearl Buck has pointed out, that this war has lost its first, fine purpose and has taken on old meanings. The fervor has been lost and the old ways have returned. This has ceased to be a struggle for freedom and has become an attempt to retain the empire which the past has established.

If, Mr. Lin Yutang says, the world does not awaken to the need for a new set of values there will be hell to pay. The hell of another war, one which will blast from the face of the earth all of the few remaining tatters of decency which we have left to wrap around us.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

New Book Out On 75 Years Of Freedom

Commerates 75th Anniversary of 13th Amendment

The many outstanding contributions of the American Negro to American culture are summed up and documented in a new publication entitled 75 years of Freedom; Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, just published by the Library of Congress. The book, which has been over two years in preparation, contains an extensive selective bibliography, based upon the series of exhibits and concerts held in the Library of Congress commencing December 18, 1940, the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the Amendment which ended slavery.

Like the original music festival and exhibitions of Negro art, books and manuscripts which provide its substance, 75 Years of Freedom, is the product of the combined efforts of many prominent authorities, Negro and white. The section devoted to Negro music contains critical articles on spirituals, blues, ballads, social songs, reels and work songs, by outstanding scholars and folklorists.

The final section dealing with the exhibit of books, manuscripts, broadcides, music periodicals and other illustrative materials comprises more than half the volume and is divided into seventeen parts dealing with the role of the American Negro in drama, education, history, music, literature, religion, science and invention, sports and athletics, the social sciences, etc. The largest portion is devoted to historical materials dealing with the anti-slavery movement.

The Negro's direct contribution to American culture is reflected in the book's inclusion of the names of hundreds of Negro individuals among the most prominent of whom are Paul Robeson, Roland Hayes, Marian Anderson and Dorothy Maynor, in the field of music; Ethel Waters and Bill Robinson in the field of entertainment; Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Richard Wright, in the field of literature; Benjamin Banneker and George Washington Carver, in the field of science; Eddie Tolson, Jesse Owens and Joe Louis, in the field of sports, and many others.

Other sections are devoted to Negro journalists, educators, inventors, Members of Congress, and social and political scientists. The extent of the participation of American Negroes as soldiers in the wars of this country also is indicated.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

NAACP Detroit Riot Pamphlet Ready

"[illegible] Caused the Detroit Riots?" a pamphlet which presents a keenly analytical study of the deep social maladjustments that set off the June carnival of violence that cost 34 lives and the loss of millions of war-work hours, is now available to the public, the NAACP announced this week. Authors of the pamphlet are Thurgood Marshall, the Association's special counsel, and Walter White, secretary.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

About Books

By CONSTANCE H. CURTIS

Roi Ottley has written NEW WORLD A-COMING (Houghton Mifflin, $3.00), at a most auspicious time. There have been an abundance [illegible] published books concerned with the attitudes of the Negro and of the world toward him. This volume however, has the advantage of being written by a Negro who, as such, can say many things which might be resented if they came from a white writer.

Much of the material in the book will not be new to Negroes. The author traces the development of Harlem and the forces which are shaping Negro life there and throughout the country as a whole. In such a review he must say many things that are known to a great number of people. The book seems obviously to be written for those who are not too well acquainted with the background or daily life of the Negro. Many of Mr. Ottley's carefully selected facts, however, when dealing with the growth and movement of thought among America's largest minority will come as an education to those of us who are Negroes.

For His Public

On a few occasions in reading the volume I was filled with a righteous sort of rage against the author's ability to say things which need saying with just a little too much attention to the eyes of his prospective white readers. His treatment of the Negro press is, for example, to a large extent fair but cocasionally remarks creep in which appear more as sops to a wide and varied reading public than as truth.

Another such fault lies in the choice of title. Mr. Ottley uses the word "a-coming" to speak of the fate of the future for Negroes. The book is certainly not in dialect and neither does it deal with a people who speak in language of this sort. The only reason for the use of the word seems to be that the writer is a Negro talking about Negroes. Why a writer feels that he must label himself in this way is a little too much for my understanding.

Well Earned

Mr. Ottley has documented his work carefully and with great deal of patience. Wherever possible he has gone to original sources for his material and with his background as a newspaperman many of the things about which he talks he knows of at first hand. His prose has a light, entertaining touch that a man who has written for a large, cosmopolitan paper acquires. (Ed. Mr. Ottley for for the Amsterdam). Chapter heads such as "Cafe-Au-Lait Society," "The Slum Shocked" and "Negroes Are Saying . . .", are as interest-provoking as the material they contain. The book well deserves the distinction it has received as being one of the five volumes ever chosen by his publishers to receive their Life-In-America award.

STANFORD

SEX AND RACE, Volume I. gers. 409 pp. La
The Old World. By J. A. Rogers. d. J. A. Rogers
The New World. By J. A. Ro- Morningside Ave- York City. $3.50.
301pp. Profusely illustrated. J. searches. 37 Mo
A. Rogers Historical Research nue. New York City. $3.00

(Concluded from last week)

Today, in the midst of war, panding struggles for racial hegemony. Of the founding of a durable peace

Philadelphia, Pa.
Tribune
BOOK REVIEW
BY TED STANFORD

for the preservation of general Caucasian supremacy over the colored races. Nippon battles to establish the rule of a colored race over the Caucasian races. Hitler struggles to effect the domination of the "ultra-superior" German race over the whole of colored and white humanity.

With these facts staring them in the face, the Caucasian leaders of the United Nations close their eyes [illegible] fumble blindly among the paraphernalia of their bag of outworn tricks. These would-be statesmen and so-called philosophers rummage for some happy nostrum which would recreate that well-known Caucasian-dominated globe upon which they revelled prior to the year 1931. In their efforts to bolster the morale of the international white working class, they step forth laden with hypocritical promises of a world-wide economic Eden at the war's end. In their efforts to drug the suspicions of their colored allies, they indulge in gilded descriptions of political equality for all peoples in the post war world. Only in the social sphere of racial intercourse are they silent. Only at this point does their magician's cloth fail to yield up some glittering bauble.

Such an impasse is most natural. The colorphobic kernel of the white man's racist philosophy forces him into a position of perpetual hostility to any program for genuine interracial equality, harmony, or good-will.

Thus, there is cultivated the breeding ground for continuous and deepening interracial conflict. That is the most sobering reality of the Twentieth Century. Yet, the whole Caucasian world refuses to admit the seriousness of its presence. The white man treats it as a sort of evil dream, a harmless Caucasian nightmare, brought on by a slight attack of imperialist indigestion. From this soil, terrible wars will spring.

It is precisely the theme of interracial sanity which the Negro historian, Rogers, has championed so stoutly. In the Foreword to Volume I of SEX and RACE, Rogers declares: "Racial understanding, racial sympathy, is the key to permanent world peace. The war today is a fire that has been set by looters in the Negro neighborhood (Ethiopia); that fire has spread into the white neighborhood where there is more to loot, more to burn. Democracy must root out, without pity, its traditions of race superiority. As long as any of this poison remains in its system, its life is in danger. After the present world conflagration when the white race shall have fought itself to exhaustion, there will still be the darker races to contend [illegible] Now is the time for the democracies to give a square deal to the darker races and head off another conflict."

In the Foreword to Volume II of SEX and RACE, Rogers says: "The doctrine of racial superiority as it now exists in Germany and the United States is the insanity of the many for the gain of the few. Now is the time while this most distressing war is on to wipe off the books those laws that make one group of American citizens the enemies of another group. Jim-crow laws have brought only evil in the past; they can bring only evil for the future. Let us start with a clean slate and give future generations a chance."

In the first volume of SEX and RACE the author discusses the whole panorama of race mixing in the Old World. The question of the oldest human race is treated, with abundant proof pointing to the likelihood of the Negro being the most of humans. The incidence of the black man in European, Asiatic, and African civilizations is described. The great cultures of Egypt, China, Greece, Rome, Islam, and India are seen to have been powerfully influenced by Negro participation and Negro thought. The theory of the "pure-blooded" European is exploded. Rogers traces the history of miscegenation through the Iberian Peninsula, France and Italy, Germany, Belgium, and Austria, Poland and Russia, the Scandinavian countries, and the British Isles. Significantly, we note that the pattern of race mixing in the Old World took the preponderant form of black man-white woman. In the Appendices to the volume, the author discusses the historical role of black Gods, black essiahs, and black Madonnas in Old World culture.

Volume II of SEX and RACE appeared in the year 1942, and concerned itself with the history of White, Indian, and Negro miscegenation in the New World. The first section of the book is devoted to the study of the configuration of sexual union in the Caribbean countries, and Central and South America. The second section is devoted to the study of racial intermingle in the United States. This latter portion of the volume, particularly, is so rich, so varied, and so provocative as to be difficult to adequately describe. Among those subjects treated are: the beginnings of miscengenation in the United States; slaveholders and their trade with houses of prostitution; affection between the races during slavery; marriage of white men and Negro women during slavery; the Negro and the white woman; rich Negroes with white wives during slavery; noted white Americans of Negro ancestry; ratio of sex and race in mixed marriages. Among those things discussed in the Appendices are: The Primitive Negro and His Attitude Toward Mixing with White People; Who Wished Miscegenation More, Negro or Caucasian?; and Body Odors and their Sexual Effect.

J. A. Rogers has wrought unselfishly [illegible] well for Negroes and all humanity. If the world of the future is a better place to live in—as it surely shall be—the historian and humanitarian, Rogers, will have done his part to make it so.

'DARKER BROTHER' BEST NOVEL ON NEGRO SINCE 'NATIVE SON'

Bee (Magazine Section) Chicago, Ill

Reviewed by
MARION M. BAXTER

"THE DARKER BROTHER" by Bucklin Moon. Doubleday, Doran, 246 pp. $2.50.

QUICK, alive and intense, Bucklin Moon's "The Darker Brother" presents the most absorbing novel on the Negro since Richard Wright's controversial "Native Son."

"The Darker Brother" is a love story, rich in the atmosphere of contemporary Negro life; full of the racy, flavorsome vernacular which is typical, in spite of some of the inaccuracies and weaknesses of its dialect. The story rings true to life today, whether in Chicago, Memphis or Harlem.

From the time we meet Ben, a 12-year-old Negro boy, ecstatically anticipating his first train ride "up Nawth" to Harlem, until he grows into manhood and joins the army, Bucklin Moon gives us a delightfully entertaining novel.

Insight Into Race Problem Uncanny.

He paints with cameo-like clearness each gripping incident, minutely conscious of detail and meticulous in description.

One wonders how a white writer can define so clearly the depth of a Negro soldier's feeling—feelings which move him to write an entire letter in one sentence:

"We been sent tuh this camp down South."

Ben's mother, Essie Mae; his little sister, Josie, and Uncle Rafe, who meets his death at the hands of the numbers racketeers, and Birdie, his girl friend, are all real people.

Gentle, dignified Uncle Rafe, who wanted Ben to have the advantages he'd missed; bewildered Essie Mae, unable to adjust herself to the city, and little Josie, all of whom meet violent deaths, pass all too quickly from the story.

Ben's fight with the racial tensions first in school as a child, and in the world as a man, are told with [illegible] insight into the conflict between white and black, economically, and socially as well.

Stark, realistic and poignant word portraits present the incongruities of the race problem, whether North or South of the Mason-Dixon line.

Birdie's "Downfall" Deplored.

With only Birdie's love to sustain him, jobless and uncertain,

8-1943

Education For The Needs Of The Negro In Virginia

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

DEC 4 1943

8

By FRED M. ALEXANDER, Ph. D.

Director Secondary Education and Supervisor of Negro Education, Virginia

"It sets a new pattern for dealing with the educational problems and needs of the Negro. I could wish that your book might be placed in the hands of our educators in every community."—Dr. J. M. Ellison, President, Virginia Union University.

"This is one of the most important of all the studies in Negro education. It proposes a program not only based upon the needs of Negroes, but also based upon accepted national standards of education. The conclusions and recommended program constitute a new challenge to the Negro and white leadership of Virginia."—William M. Cooper, Director of Extension, Hampton Institute.

"The social significance of this book is so apparent that it is 'must' reading for both Negroes and white people."—Dr. L. Thomas Hopkins, Teachers College, Columbia University.

DEC 4 1943

297 pp. $2.00 cloth bound; $1.50 paper covers.

Published by

THE SOUTHERN EDUCATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

726 Jackson Place, N. W. Washington, 6, D. C.

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DEC 4 1943

A Brilliant Novel

You will not believe that anyone as modern as the fascinating Manuel de Lisa could have lived so long until you read this amazing legend, "Those Who Go Against the Current," by Shirley Seifert ($3, J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.). It is a story bursting with adventure and passion and makes its characters live as though they are on a screen instead of the printed pages.

Born to Maria and Cristobal de Lisa in a pit of a hut in a deserted village during a hurricane, Manuel's first prayer of dedication was made by the old woman who assisted at his birth. The old woman, a chieftain's mother, lived to tell her people the story on their return to the village, and there begins Manuel's lifelong associations with the Redmen of America.

You will hate, then pity, his brother Joaquin, who never acquired any ambitions and who betrayed Manuel's first love. Nothing but admiration will you feel for Manuel and his friends, the greatest of whom were Jean Baptise Sarpy, George Drouillard, Hyacinthe Eglise, General William Clark, Edward Hempstead—the legend is filled with names, great men's names, that Captain Lisa knew and even dealed if he had to along the great river.

There were women in his life: Polly Chew, whom he rescued from the Sacs, and married through pity, for she and her child had no kin. He tried hard to love Polly (she had [illegible] woman; Mitonin, sister of Big Elk, chief of the Mahas, whom he took to save a nation, you might say. Then there was beautiful, daring Mary Hempstead, whom he should have met before all the others. She was the first white woman to make a voyage up the Missouri. Mitonin must have hated her. Anyway, whether this Indian wife's spell worked or not, handsome Manuel did not live long after that trip. He was tired; he had accomplished too much.

The story ends with the words: "Wakonda-pezhi! Great Spirit" Is Bad!" Although you want to keep reading after that, you feel satisfied at having read a legend of a man who should be living today. Miss Seifert has written a powerful and brilliant novel.

Gwendolyn Williams,
Indianapolis, Ind.

DEC 4 1943

Everybody, including his enemies, looked up to him. His judgment was sound and fair under any circumstance; he was bold, carrying on trades with the Indians all the while the Spanish monopolized trading.

At 19 Manuel owned his first boat, the Speedwell, and was a master trader. He began on the Ohio and wound up on the turbulent Missouri; he helped equip the Lewis and Clark Expedition and loaned them his best scout and friend, George Drouillard.

Captain Lisa saw the War of 1812; he heard Amos Stoddard's speech to the Louisianians when Louisiana became a part of the United States. Manuel believed in this young nation; he swore that when the foreign powers were defeated the Americans would end corruption and treat all men alike. He was a student of democracy.

Gallant Manuel dashed from trading post to trading post in the midst of rival companies and hostile Indians. He built his own forts along the Missouri so that he could establish trade and friendship with all the Indians

U. S. In the Orient

With all the world looking to the United States as a leader in the solution of the world's post-war problems, Albert Viton's recent book, "American Empire In Asia" (308 pages, $3, the John Day Company, New York) is as timely and as provocative as today's headlines.

One thing Mr. Viton tells his readers that is not news anymore but interesting nevertheless, is that out of this war has come, if nothing else, a reversion of the old adage, "In peace prepare for war." Now, in time of war, the tendency definitely is to prepare for peace. Everywhere men talk about and write about the post-war peace and what the world will be like when the present conflict is over.

Clearly, Mr. Viton indicates that out of this will come (or has come) a revolt against war as "For the first time in human history," he writes, "war is being rejected as a social institution, as a means to glory, as a natural part of patriotic duty. Indeed, the revolt is even greater. In the Western World at least, in the U.S.S.R., and even in some Asiatic countries, man has not only ceased to admire war; he no longer accepts it as a method of settling international disputes; he no longer believes it to be a part of the natural order from which humanity cannot liberate itself, struggle as it may. He no longer believes that war is inevitable."

Continuation of pre-war imperialism will certainly sow the seeds of future world conflicts and will make a mockery of the war aims for which we are fighting. Therefore, it is not the idea of a newer and more vigorous American imperialism supplanting an outmoded European imperialism that Mr. Viton preaches.

Rather, it is a doctrine that will allow the use of American machinery and American mass production to rehabilitate occupied countries of the Far East. White prestige in Asia has taken a beating from which it will not soon recover, and the big job to be done in Asia will be, not to reinstate European colonial powers but to feed hungry peoples, clothe them and give them a newer aim in life—an aim to be more than slaves of imperialistic rulers.

According to Mr. Viton, "America, if she is to be true to her traditions, and, above all, if she really has the most vital interest—if she is determined to eliminate the threat of a world war every generation—must uphold a vision of a democratic, socially progressive and non-imperialistic era. Such an era can now be constructed. It is within our reach." Within our reach it is—so near and yet so far!

Thelma Thurston Gorham.
Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

DEC 4 1943

BOOK REVIEW

Tribune

BY TED STANFORD

JOHN BROWN. By Oswald Garrison Villard. 738 pp. Illustrated. Alfred A. Knopf. New York City. $5.00

The immortal story of an American hero. This monumental masterpiece of American historical literature was first published in 1910. It has since become a classic. Having been out of print for many years, the volume reappears with a new foreword by the author, textual corrections, fresh critical addenda, and a revised bibliography.

STANFORD

DEC 4 1943

Philadelphia, Pa.

THE WORLD OF THE FOUR FREEDOMS. By Sumner Welles. With a foreword by Nicholas Murray Butler. 121 pp. Columbia University Press. New York City. $1.75.

The former Under Secretary of State presents an analysis of the present world situation as it concerns the people and the Government of the United States. The author examines the forces which led to the abandonment of Woodrow Wilson's plan to end international war. He reviews the facts relating to the anti-democratic struggles of the fascist powers in Europe and Asia. A calendar of principles is offered for the guidance of American policy in the post-war world. An acquaintanceship with the contents of this book is basic to an understanding of certain fundamental trends in contemporary world history.

DEC 4 1943

RACE AND CRIME. By Willem Adriaan Bonger. Translated from the Dutch by Margaret Mathews Hordyk. 130 pp. Columbia University Press. New York City. $1.50

This volume represents the final published work of the late Professor Bonger, prime Netherlands criminologist, and former faculty member of the University of Amsterdam. This book contains a cautious and labored study of the comparative relationships between race and crime, new to this field. Indeed, no great contribution is to be expected from a prejudiced, so-called scientist who was able to believe, as Bonger did, that "the inherent intelligence of the Negro is less than that of the white man."

DEC 4 1943

THE CENTURY OF THE COMMON MAN. By Henry A. Wallace. Edited by Russell Lord. 96 pp. Reynal and Hitchcock. New York City. $1.50.

A collection of popular and impassioned addresses selected from the public papers of the Vice-president of the United States. For the first time, Mr. Wallace's ideas concerning future world society have been drawn together in one volume. Among others, the book contains the texts of the two especially commanding speeches—"The Price of Free World Victory" and "Russia." There is included also "George—A Commencement Address," a recent speech which is not available elsewhere in printed form.

DEC 4 1943

WHAT TO DO ALL THE DOCTOR COMES. By Donald B. Armstrong, M.D., in collaboration with Grace T. Hallock. 354 pp. Illustrated. Simon and Schuster, New York City. $1.

Everybody's book of emergency medical information. It is a practical and complete guide to first-aid procedures of all sorts. This handy, pocket-size volume is the natural companion to your family medicine chest. It automatically makes it possible for everyone to give both himself and his doctor a break. It is of study of the Negro artist in the United States. The story tends from the earliest period down to the present. Mr. Porter, himself a creative artist and a teacher, has brought to the subject the thoroughness of scholarship, a freshness of approach, an ease of literary style and an understanding of the Negro artist and his problems.

MODERN NEGRO ART. By James A. Porter. 272 pp. Illustrated. The Dryden Press. New York City. $3.25

DEC 4 1943

The Negro Comes Of Age

'Race' Growth One Of Bright Episodes In History Of Mankind', Embree Writes

CHICAGO—"Brown Americans" by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, is issued this week by the Viking Press, New York City. It is a newly written statement based to some extent on material used by the same author in "Brown America" which has been a standard work on Negroes since it was published in 1931.

Commenting today on the recent progress of Negroes, Mr. Embree says:

"The growth of this race is one of the bright episodes in the history of mankind. In three brief generations it has climbed from the utter dependency of slavery to a high place in many phases of modern civilization. It is now building swiftly on the slowly laid foundations of the earlier decades of freedom.

PHENOMENAL RISE

"Negro literacy has jumped from the 5 per cent of slavery days to over 90 per cent—well above the literacy of the whole populations of any Latin-American state or of any but the people of a few favored nations. And its education has gone far beyond the rudiments. Nearly 50,000 Negroes are in colleges and universities today, three times as many as when Du Bois wrote 12 years ago. During the past six years, 24,000 Negroes have been graduated from college—more than had been graduated during all the previous centuries of the life of this new race in the New World.

"The Negro death rate, while still higher than it need be with modern medicine and sanitation, has been cut in half during the past 50 years and now compares favorably with the rates in such countries as France or Italy.

POTENT FACTOR IN LABOR

"Negroes have become a solid part of the labor movement. Their union enrollment is five times that of 12 years ago. While still underemployed and kept for the most part in the lower posts, their surge into jobs of all sorts during the war emergency has given them new economic footholds, some of which they will certainly keep.

"Migrations have brought one-fourth of the race to the North and West where they have fuller rights and freer opportunities. And this movement, still in full flow, will continue to distribute them more equitably throughout the whole country. Their votes in their new states give them a balance of power in many important states and thus as strong influence in the policies of the nation. Their opinions and demands are now strongly voiced in national associations and in over 200 of their own newspapers. While the masses in the South still knew few of the boons of democracy, the higher standing of the three million Northern Negroes is steadily changing attitudes toward the race as a whole.

TYPICAL OF UNIVERSAL TREND

"The rise of the Negro Americans is a part of the general upsurge of colored peoples the world over. We do not yet see the shift that is taking place. A 'cultural lag' runs throughout all human history, a delay between changes and our adaptation to them. That lag is conspicuous—and may become tragic—in the attitudes that the white nations still hold toward the colored peoples. If we persist in our arrogant attempt to rule and exploit all darker groups, they will rise up in a world rebellion that may wipe out white civilization.

"Diverse peoples must learn to live together happily and effectively in this rapidly shrinking world. This means the granting of equitable opportunities; a free exchange of goods and of ideas; the right of diverse peoples to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

About Books

By CONSTANCE H. CURTIS

Amsterdam Star-News

HERE IS AFRICA By Ellen and Attillio Gatti, Scribners, New York, 1943. 170 pages, $2.50.

Africa is all too often thought of as a nation made up entirely of black people, but this is not true. Evidences are found throughout the country of the land bridge which once connected it with the European continent. Within its boundaries are not only the blackest, but also some of the whitest people in the world. There are blonds, blacks, Arabs, Jews — all of the mixtures of the earth within the borders of its far reaching expanses.

Writers in the tradition of Mr. Burton Holmes, who has made a vocation of his travels, are usually a little disappointing. Too often the places they visit and the things which interest them are not the things we have dreamed of far-off places. This is not true, however, of the book which grew out of the visit of the Gattis to the African continent.

New York, N. Y.

During a three-year stay with the African peoples, the Gattis have gathered information and stories which make the volume a storehouse of information.

Country of Wonder

It would be hard for a writer to disappoint his audience concerning the multitudinous populations of the country, its prosperious peoples and its huge stretches of vegetation and desert. It has drama within itself, and the authors of "Here Is Africa" do not underplay this drama.

A superb piece of work has been done by the authors in their collection and selection of photographs. Throughout the book the illustrations serve to bring the people and places which are being discussed much closer to the reader. They are used lavishly and with good effect as an integral part of the volume.

Over Abundance

There are, of course, lacks in the volume, the most outstanding of which is the authors' inability to discontinue the use of a simile once they have hit upon it. In too many cases there is a definite overuse of descriptive language which in many cases causes the reader to smile. This over abundant verbiage may be to large extent, the net result of two people having lived for a short period in a nation one of whose faults could be said to be the similar sort of over abundance in everything which is done there. Whether it is the gigantic height of the Watussi warriors or the smallness of their pygmy brothers, the burning heat and dryness of the desert, or the luxuriant growth within the Zulu country, there is unbelievableness about the entire situation. And so may be the position of the writer who attempt to describe these things, in all of their wonder.

No Condescension

One of the most important things concerning the treatment of Africa by the authors is the fact that in no instance is there any show of condescension on their part. And this is stranger than it might appear at first sight, since, all too often, white travelers are inclined to underestimate the ancient nature of the African people and their ability to fit themselves perfectly into the natural environment into which they have been born. Throughout the book the Gattis show in various ways their disapproval of the white man's entrance into Africa with his "stick which belches fire" and his ideas that the color of the skin makes the difference between human and sub-human.

The volume loses in emphasis to some extent because too much has been included in the travels of the couple. To give an adequate picture of their expedition through French Morocco, along the North Coast, through the Sahara and Equatorial jungles to the Cape of Good Hope, the authors have included a large amount of historical material, which though it serves a good purpose is given in too great quantities for a book of this type.

Africa, through the eyes of the Gattis, is a strange and yet familiar land, that has been brought closer to us by war and will no doubt grow more familiar after the peace is won.

New Book–'Race Riot'–Gives a Blueprint for Harmony of Races

Kansas City, Mo

NEW YORK.— Alarmed by the threat of new racial outbreaks while the Detroit and Harlem riots are fresh in the minds of the country, outstanding Negro leaders in government, industry, religious and labor circles are studying a blueprint for harmony between races developed by two outstanding social scientists.

It is embodied in a publication, "Race Riot," prepared by Drs. Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey of Detroit which includes practical suggestions by 25 experts thoroughly versed in all phases of the racial problem.

Great Loss in War Production

Negro leaders, including Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Dr. Channing H. Tobias, of the National Council Y.M.C.A. and Dr. Robert C. Weaver, chief of the minority groups division of the War Manpower Commission, are among those who have strongly endorsed the plan as one of the most constructive contributions that has been made to the race problem.

The Detroit riot, in addition to its cost in national morale and democracy as a world symbol, cost 34 lives, more than 1,000 wounded and, according to J. D. Keenan, vice-chairman of the War Production Board, a loss in war production time greater than that "of all labor disputes in the entire nation in the first two months of the year."

Use Book as Weapon

Walter Winchell has declared that "Race Riot" is a "book for civilized people, not only to read, but to use as a weapon against the barbarians indicted in it." Its outline of "steps that can be taken by any city to combat the creeping horror of race riots" represents a "composite product," based not only upon the authors' field experience and opinions, but also upon the actual experience of many experts and organizations in civic and political fields, as revealed in interviews and in published and confidential reports.

The authors—Dr. Lee and Dr. Humphrey—are professors of sociology at Wayne university, Detroit, and were eyewitnesses of the Detroit riots. Dr. Lee is also head of the department of social service of Detroit Council of Churches. Dr. Humphrey is a former Ford assembly-line employe and member of the United Auto Workers' Union. He was assaulted during the Detroit riots when he attempted to save the life of a Negro.

Publisher

The publishers are Dryden Press of 103 Park Avenue, New York City, who also published "The Negro Caravan," containing over 1,000 pages of fiction, poetry, "blues," folk songs, biography, etc., and "Modern Negro Art" by James A. Porter.

Through organizations vitally interested in the problems of race tension, plans are being made to send the book to government officials, industrial and labor leaders and personnel and educational directors of industrial plants and labor unions. Dr. Tobias has expresseed the opinion that "Race Riot" should be distributed to "Mayors and chiefs of police of principal cities of the United States as a great service to law and order and amicable race relationships."

The book has been hailed by labor leaders, such as Philip Murray, president of the C.I.O., David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers Union; and leaders of religious organizations directly concerned with inter-racial relations, including Dr. F. Ernest Johnson, executive secretary of the research and education committee, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Monsignor John A. Ryan, director of the department of social action of the National Catholic Welfare conference; and Joseph C. Mayne, Michigan regional director, National Conference of Christians and Jews.

One of the authors, Dr. Lee, will be remembered by former University of Kansas students as a member of the sociology and journalism faculties at K. U. in 1934-37.

8-1943

WORLD VIEW

By JOHN ROBERT BADGER

SEP 18

Negro-America's Lunatic Fringe

THE BOOK "Under Cover" contains a chapter entitled "Hitler and Hirohito in Harlem" which poses certain problems for Negro-America. This is the book that was threatened with suppression by powerful reactionary interests. It was written by an undercover agent who joined more than a hundred pro-Fascist and Fascist organizations here in order to provide the FBI and the military intelligence departments with the information they required on the Axis Fifth Column.

John Roy Carlson, pseudonym for the undercover author, traced the work of the Fifth Column into Harlem, and some of his revelations make extraordinary reading.

Carlson met and reported the activities of Arthur Reid, director of the African Progressive Business League; Carlos Cooks, director of the African Pioneering Syndicate, Inc.; Samuel W. Daniels, publisher of a magazine called "Negro Youth"; Robert Jordan, organizer of the Ethiopian Pacific Movement, Inc.

He quotes Reid as saying: "I like Hitler . . . yeah, I like Hitler for what he is doin'. He is doin' all right. Let the white man kill his brother white man. It'll leave fewer whites to bother with later — when the black man can step in and get justice for himself."

Carlson called Cooks "a forceful youth" and "one of the more intelligent fascist leaders in Harlem." He quotes Cook as saying: "I reject completely the theory that the Negro must give unquestioning obedience to the State and its leaders. We feel no enmity with people of the totalitarian powers, especially Japan. The Japanese have never lynched or exploited the Negro . . . Between Nazism and Democracy, the two evils, I would choose Nazism, for the Blacks can sink no lower than they have today in America."

Cooks also proclaimed himself "a black nationalist," declared "I want the black man to go back to Africa," published a sheet called "The Street Speaker" which was violently pro-Fascist, anti-British, anti-Communist, anti-Semitic, and anti-United States.

Negro Ultra-Nationalism

CARLSON describes Daniels, whom he visited in his room on Seventh Avenue, as a "fierce, powerfully built Negro," who demanded "an empire of Blacks in Africa," and who had a color-complex within his racial complex.

"The blacker the Negro the finer the Negro," he is quoted as saying. "The blacker the Negro the greater credit he is to his race. Mulattoes are bastards. They will side with the white man. They are enemies of the black Negro."

Carlson devotes most space to Jordan, whom he describes as a West Indian about 41 years old, who had traveled widely, having served as a sailor on ships of the biggest Japanese shipping company, and paid a visit to Germany.

Jordan seems to have been sure of an Axis victory, who went overboard for the propaganda of the Japanese Fascists. He was also anti-Semitic and anti-Communist. He is quoted by Carlson as saying:

"Japan is the black man's friend. Racially, Japan is the same as the Negroes. At one time all Japanese were black people . . . If American Negroes looked ahead they would fight for the interest of Japan, the leading dark nation. Japan's mission is to save the darker races of the world from Communism, just as Hitler's job is to save the White races in the west from Communism."

Erroneous Conclusions

THIS EVIDENCE is mustered by Carlson to prove his essential point, that the Fifth Column is very powerful in the United States, and is using every atom of discontent to achieve its purpose. With this point, we fully agree, and the rest of Carlson's book we have no hesitation in recommending, though he goes off the beam on many of the conclusions he draws from his facts.

One such conclusion about Negro-America is obviously false. This is his statement that "the Negro, oppressed, clannish, emotional, himself a victim of racialism, was easily brutalized by exhortations to violence."

On the contrary, all the facts of Negro-America's participation in this war refute such a notion. The contributions of Negroes in the armed forces, in industry, in the trade unions, in the government, blood donor and bond selling drives, in the war chest drives to aid our allies, in political elections where the war issues are clarified, in supporting the policies of the Commander-in-chief — in all these things, the contributions of Negro-America prove indisputably that we know our enemies and are determined to help destroy them. We know the Fascists abroad as well as at home, in Japan as well as in Germany, are our mortal foes.

Carlson has mistaken a lunatic fringe of Harlem for a typical group of Negro-America.

But what is disturbing in Carlson's report is the fact that some of the treasonable ideas expressed by these crack-pots and fanatics are also passed off as sound judgment by certain eminently respectable zealots among us.

Believing in racial equality isn't enough!

Nation
New York, N. Y.

OCT 23 1943

Understanding it—and understanding the basis of present inequalities—is the least we can do.

The "Negro question" confronts every one of us, whatever the color of our skin. A solution can be reached only if each of us—personally and individually—understands this urgent problem, its roots, its development, its possibilities of solution.

In Edwin Embree's new book, "Brown Americans," you will find a complete and fascinating account of Negroes in America, their history from the first arrival of a slave ship to present outbreaks of racial violence. It's an account of the past and the present that points the way to future progress.

Here is a vital, human story of the men, white and dark, who have worked for Negro freedom and education. Here is a picture of a tenth of this nation—living, working, hoping in a foreign society, yet a society with which they must get along, with which they must merge if they are to survive. $2.75

★★★ **BROWN AMERICANS**

THE STORY OF A TENTH OF THE NATION

OCT 23 1943

By EDWIN R. EMBREE
of The Julius Rosenwald Fund

For twelve years Edwin Embree's earlier book, "Brown America," has been accepted by Negroes and white Americans as a standard work on the status of the Negro. Mr. Embree's new volume is not a "revised edition." It is a completely fresh survey of a problem that has assumed international importance.

THE VIKING PRESS
18 East 48th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Defender
Chicago, Ill

BOOKS

By BEN BURNS

Native Fascists

"UNDER COVER" by John Roy Carlson. E. P. Dutton & Co. $3.50.

THE FRONT PAGE news the other day that Col. Robert R. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune is being supported for President by a group of indicted pro-fascist leaders was not news to readers of "Under Cover." For the complete story of Col. McCormick's friends in the multitude of subversive, pro-Axis groups in America is told in this amazing expose, which is a fact-jammed volume that should be read by every man and women in the nation.

John Roy Carlson is the pseudonym for an Armenia-born writer who got a magazine job of joining the Nazi underworld and keeping tab on U. S. Hitlerites.

The result is lurid, sordid, book. It has the impact of an air raid alarm, the sweep of an FBI investigation. Carlson has the facts at his finger tips. He recites them in his volume in direct and grim prose that builds up to a terrific jolt.

Some of the thrilling story is so sensational that it is virtually unbelievable but Carlson's massive document is attested to by too many reliable sources to leave any doubts.

Here are the names, dates and places—all of the evidence to put the finger on America's Quislings, many of them in high places. This is the parade of the fifth column complete from the Nazi Bund down to the pro-Japanese Ethiopian Pacific Movement.

Carlson has included a chapter on "Hitler and Hirohito in Harlem" which unfortunately is rather sketchy and incomplete, and does not come up to the standard of the rest of the book. He tells of his contacts with Robert Jordan, who was leader of the Negro group recently convicted of sedition in Harlem.

Some of the background for Detroit's race riot is also furnished in Carlson's revelations about the National Workers League, which also was behind the racial outbreak at the Sojourner Truth Housing project. Typical is the theory set forth by one of the N.W.L. leaders, who told Carlson:

"You begins your woik by talking against the Jews and the nigger. The Jew got us in the war; you tell 'em that. The Jew is keeping labor down by controlling the money. It's the Jew who hires niggers and gives them low wages. There is the angle. . . . You ties in the niggers with the Jew, den you call the Jews Communists. That gets 'em."

"Under Cover" is a sad story of too much American complacency while fascists gnaw at our way of life. It outlines a job to be done by the FBI to cleanse the nation of the fascist filth that thrives on race hatred.

SEP 4 1943

People's Poet

"JIM CROW'S LAST STAND" by Langston Hughes. Negro Publication Society. 25c.
"FREEDOM'S PLOW" by Langston Hughes. Musette Publishers. 10c.

LANGSTON HUGHES, who is probably one of the most prolific of Negro writers today, has two new little pamphlets of poems off the press.

"Freedom's Plow" is a work that was read recently by Paul Muni over a national radio hookup while "Jim Crow's Last Stand" is a collection of his most recent work, much of it dealing with race prejudice and the war.

While some of the pieces show the lack of considered writing, most show that there are few poets today who can match Hughes for colorful, lilting, pointed quality, fighting Soviet city or "To Captain The Chicago Defender columnist Mulzac" telling of the first war-knows what he is talking about and time Negro sea captain. speaks out with biting, sharp words that ring clear and hard.

These are all "Ballads to Amer-Sandburg ring in its free verse. ica"—excellent poems like "The in the countries in "Ballad of the latest publications of Negro poet's Bridge Lynching or "Good Morning Stalingrad" with its tribute to the Dixie racial

"BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE SELF-TAUGHT," by Francisco Ibarra and Arthur Coellio. Hamlem House, $2.50.

For particularly of interest to Negroes is the status of the Negro in Brazil where inter-racial relations are a model to the world.

THE RAPIDLY expanding Inter-can. Negroes in the More and more Negroes in the em, and particularly United States are casting their eyes s in Latin America south of our borders to Mexico, the ejudice is virtually where race prejudices, West Indies and Brazil—with many

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill.— By BEN BURNS

"HARRIET TUBMAN" by Earl Conrad. Associated Publishers, Washington. $3 25.

'Goddess Of Liberty'

THERE ARE few chapters in the history of America as thrilling, as heart-rending, as human as the sensational saga of Harriet Tubman.

But for her color and her birth, she would have been ranked by historians along with the greatest women of the age. Her bravery and courage in the battle for freedom, her tender and compassionate feeling for humanity, her stalwart strength and fortitude in struggling for her people are without match in the pages of the past or present. She has been called "Moses of Her People," the "Greatest Heroine of the Age," the "Goddess of Liberty." Yet neither prose nor poetry have yet adequately chronicled the greatness of this Negro woman.

Some of the failure to do justice to her deeds lies in her birth as a slave and a Negro. Another factor has been the lack of authoritative data concerning her life. Too much has been fragmentary hearsay and rumor.

Author Earl Conrad has done a valuable service in correlating and collecting much of transient information about Harriet Tubman in a new biography just issued by Carter G. Woodson's Associated Publishers. While other works have been written about her, Conrad's seems to be one of the most complete documents yet done. It is a thorough, detailed job.

The story of Harriet Tubman is as exciting as a detective thriller, yet as significant as a presidential fireside chat. It is the graphic narrative of a people, rather a personality. For Miss Tubman's life is woven into the fabric of the struggle against slavery.

SEP 11 1943

Underground Railroad

BEGINNING in a broken-down Maryland shack, the story tells of the early struggle of this heroine, working at the age of five, beaten by a slave master and stricken with a permanent brain affliction, escaping finally from her chains, and then entering into the dangerous Underground Railroad work.

For eight years she was a "conductor" in bringing runaway slaves into free territory. She made some 19 trips into the South and brought back some $300,000 worth of fellow blacks. Some years later she told an upstate New York audience "I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say—I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger."

At the climax of her career in freeing hundreds of slaves, she joined with John Brown in planning his famous Harper's Ferry coup which despite its failure eventually succeeded with Union victory in the Civil War.

It was during the War of the States that she perhaps did her most daring work—acting as a guerilla fighter behind Confederate lines. Her leadership in the Combahee River campaign in which thousands of Negro slaves were freed and the countryside laid waste by a small army of black soldiers marks her unmatched daring and gallantry.

SEP 11 1943

As a nurse and scout she performed as a superwoman in the midst of suffering and depravity. But an incident at the end of her service is typical of the scandalous treatment she received later from race-haters in the government. On her return from her strenuous duties with the Union armies in the South, she was ousted from first class accommodations and thrown into a baggage car because of her color.

From then on most of her work was connected in attempting to speed her people into first class citizenship, but she encountered much disappointment. She found herself given the run-around by Congress in her efforts to get a small pension of $20 a month for her work in the Union army.

Despite a hectic, full life, she almost lived to be a centenarian.

Need For Glamour

In writing his biography, Conrad has done a worthwhile, solid job. But while a fine researcher, he is far from being a skilled writer. His is a weighty tome, too often dull and dreary, when the subject calls for brilliant and dramatic treatment.

SEP 11 1943

Harriet Tubman's life encompasses material for one of the most gripping books of the day. It needs an author like Howard Fast, who did such a remarkable and intriguing job on his book on Thomas Paine.

History is not stolid, not stale — certainly not the story of Harriet Tubman. It would be well for Carter Woodson and his associates to reappraise their past approach to the great Negro figures of history. There is a need to glamorize, to dramatize the Negro's story. And our history books are the place to begin the job.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill. By BEN BURNS

AUG 21 1943

Coming Books

THE SUMPTUOUS Fall book lists are beginning to burden the mails these days. And after a preliminary glance at the extensive catalogues, it is gratifying to find that Uncle Sam's men in gray are carrying happy news from the book publishers — at least for the growing multitude of Americans with a deep interest in the vital race problem.

At this relatively early day in the Fall book season which certainly is a long way from its zenith there are at least half a dozen works already on the publishers' presses dealing with men and women of color. Perhaps a portent of the increasing awareness of the key importance of integrating the Negro into American life is the number of authors who have enlisted their pens in this cause.

Perhaps the volume that promises most in the way of added understanding of the Negro's role in the white man's world is "The Darker Brother." a novel by Bucklin Moon (Doubleday, Doran. $2.50) that is due for publication on September 17. The publishers are comparing it with Richard Wright's "Native Son" and add the commentary: "But it was written by a white man, and you'll be proud that a white man had such understanding."

The description of the book continues: "'The Darker Brother' is a story about Negroes, and after you've read it you'll never think of them again as a blur of faces along the roadside. For in this time of change and liberation, their new day is coming."

'Strange Fruit'

AUG 21 1943

ANOTHER NOVEL which should be a literary event is "Strange Fruit" by Lillian E. Smith (Reynal & Hitchcock. $2.50). Miss Smith is the editor of that growing little magazine "South Today," which is published in Clayton, Ga. I have read an excerpt from Miss Smith's newest work and if the whole is anything like the sample, she has indeed written a fine piece of literature.

According to the reports, "Strange Fruit" will be the story of a mixed marriage in the Deep South. A small portion of the book appears in the September issue of Negro Digest under the title "Georgia Primer." It is a movin' story of how one young Negro had learned about white supremacy.

Another coming work is Sterling Brown's "A Negro Looks at the South" (Doubleday, Doran. $2.50) which has been in the making for some time but is now definitely promised for Fall.

The crop of non-fiction will be lush also, according to advance reports. Leading off the list is a new edition of "Brown America" (Viking Press) by Edwin Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The first version of the book ran into more than half a dozen editions and now Mr. Embree has revised, re-edited and added new material to his book which will be forthcoming in September.

The Rev. John LaFarge, who is a writer for the Catholic magazine "America," has written "The Race Question and the Negro" (Longmans, Green. $2.75). Possibly the most extensive work on the Negro will be two volumes in the series on "The Negro in American Life," which have been prepared under the direction of Dr. Gunnar Myrdal and sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation. Both will be of value to scholars. They are "An American Dilemma; The Negro Problem and American Democracy" by Dr. Myrdal (Harpers. $7.50) and "Characteristics of the American Negro" by Otto Klineberg (Harpers. $4.50).

Of work in progress, there are rumors of coming books from the pens of Richard Wright. Langston Hughes, Thomas Sancton and W. E. B. DuBois but we will have more to say of these when the publishers' announcements are made.

New Book Out On Race History

Defender
Chicago, Ill.—

AUG 21 1943

WASHINGTON—The many outstanding contributions of the American Negro to American culture are summed up and documented in a new publication entitled "75 Years of Freedom," commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States," just published by the Library of Congress.

The book, which has been over two years in preparation, contains an extensive selective bibliography, based upon the series of exhibits and concerts held in the Library of Congress commencing December 18, 1940, the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the Amendment which ended slavery.

The section devoted to Negro music contains articles on spirituals, blues, ballads, social songs, reels and work songs, by such outstanding scholars and folklorists as Dr. Alain Locke and Sterling A. Brown, Negro poets and professors at Howard university, and Alan Lomax, formerly in charge of the Archive of American Folk Song in the Library. The section on the exhibit of graphic art contains an introduction by Alonzo J. Aden, curator of the Howard University Gallery of Art, and is illustrated in color.

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PEARL BUCK ON AMERICA

Those who happened to read Pearl Buck's recent articles in the Herald Tribune on a Negro family in Philadelphia will be interested to know that this piece is one of several dealing with the same general theme in "What America Means to Me," a collection of some of her recent talks and essays on world affairs. (John Hay, $2.00).

With her characteristic honesty, when dealing even with unpleasant truths, Miss Buck drives home again and again her conviction that "It is the white people who are endangered by race prejudice. We are endangered in the world, where there are many millions more of colored people than of white. The world will close down on us one day . . ."

Japan, for instance, has conquered a greater portion of the globe than the white peoples rule today, and the dark populations of the Philippines and Burma and China, of India and Africa, have never had serious illusions about the pallid myth of the imperialists, which, according to Miss Buck is "nothing but a prop to bolster up empire by self-righteousness . . . there is not, and never was, a white man's burden except in the sense that the white man made a burden for himself by trying to force his rule upon reluctant peoples."

AUG 4 1943

And today, the colored peoples are fingering weapons, too. "If the white man does not soon save himself by discovering that all men are born free and equal, he may not be able to save himself at all. For the colored man is going to insist on human equality and freedom . . ."

"The dark shadow," Miss Buck predicts, is going to become rapidly more than a shadow unless positive steps are taken right now to erase prejudice and discrimination against minorities and oppressed people the world over. The freedom for which we fight must mean human equality and liberty for all, and especially for the colored races.

Of particular interest to many Negro readers will be the address, reproduced in this volume, which Miss Buck delivered at the Howard university commencement last year, when she urged Negro youth to become interpreters of the colored peoples of the world, instead of thinking only of equality for themselves in the United States.

But whether she is speaking of American Negroes, Asiatics, Jews, or Africans, her message has a ring of prophetic truth which makes this book "must reading" for all thoughtful persons.

LOIS TAYLOR,
Hampton institute.

8-1943

Three Viewpoints on the Negro Problem in America

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

NOV 14 1943

BROWN AMERICANS: The Story of a Tenth of the Nation. By Edwin R. Embree. 233 pp. New York: Viking Press. $2.75.

THE RACE QUESTION AND THE NEGRO. By John La Farge, S. J. 290 pp. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. $2.50.

RACE RIOT. By Alfred Lee McClung and Norman Daymond Humphrey. 141 pp. New York: Dryden Press. $1.50.

By WALTER DAVENPORT

THE day must inevitably come when someone will write about the Negro and his melancholy role in American democracy without yearning over him. It will not be a popular book in the sense that it will be pleasant reading. It will be tearless, emotionless and, in all probability, humorless. Therefore, it will have very few readers — as what book on this absorbingly forlorn subject hasn't? And yet it will be an important book, a last-word (we hope!) treatment of a subject which has been racked with hysteria, gummed up with sentimental woe and mildewed with case history.

NOV 14 1943

This book will be written straight from the Bill of Rights and will put it embarrassingly up to the reader, if any, to decide whether Americans who have been Americans since 1619 *are* Americans. And if they are not Americans, what are they? And what should be done about a people who have been in America for 224 years—and are still ineligible to the full benefits of government which they must nevertheless support with their taxes and maintain with their lives?

Here are three books about the Negro. Two of them—Mr. Embree's and Father La Farge's—have been in the book shops before, the former first issued in 1931 and the latter in 1937 under the title "Interracial Justice." Both are reissued, amplified, brought up to date. Any white American whose interest in the subject is deeper than the servant problem may profitably read Mr. Embree's "Brown Americans." Indeed, the whole interracial situation might benefit considerably if not another word were written nor spoken thereon until it is read. Of course, nothing that may be said to its credit can quite measure up to its recommendation from the Honorable Gene Talmadge, who, two years ago as Governor of Georgia, swept it from the libraries of that State's university system into the purging flames of his wrath.

NOV 14 1943

It was Mr. Talmadge's deep conviction that it would not do at all to have Georgia's young know that "Thomas Jefferson was reported, when President, to have regretted that certain of his own children were kept from voting because of their mother's color." Nor that "Patrick Henry was so impressed by the superiority of the mixed breeds that, while Speaker of the Virginia Assembly, he introduced a bill offering a State bonus to children of mixed parentage." As a historical review of what the Negro is all about, Mr. Embree's book is excellent. It's a "good story" and a well-written one.

It is not too surprising that Mr. Embree accents the need of education for the Negro. He is himself a scholar. For the past fifteen years he has been president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. He has been secretary and vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. However, when he departs from straight narrative, he hits the beaten path of all writers on Negro salvation. That book for which we hanker will, we hope, recognize that Negro education for the white man is even more essential than white-man education for the Negro. Mr. Embree's and all other books on this subject make it dismally clear that it is a woeful waste of time and material to educate the black man and then deny him the privilege of using what he has learned.

NOV 14 1943

However, "Brown Americans" is hereby enthusiastically urged upon you — particularly if you haven't to date been particularly interested in what is so pathetically known as "the problem." In these moments of so much global good-willing and good-neighboring, it might be wiser than you think to have a look around our own back door.

NOV 14 1943

Father La Farge, too, is a scholar, but a less warm one. The social doctrine of the Catholic Church guides his hand as he writes "The Race Question and the Negro." Here is the militant missionary writing that "the question of race relations * * * is primarily a moral question and secondarily a matter of social sciences." The Catholic Church, goes on Father La Farge, does not admit that any moral problem is beyond solution. From that premise this educator, missionary and editor proceeds to offer anthropological and ethnological testimony in support of his conclusion that "there appears to be no rational basis and no actual proof for attributing racial mental difference * * * to the members of the Negro group in the United States."

Resettlement Administration, by Rothstein.

NOV 14 1943

Is Her New World Really Coming?

To Father La Farge it is the church's problem and will be the church's solution. Not, mind you, that he is at all mystical about it. To those who insist that there is no race problem he says: "The very people who insist there is no race problem are the same who warn anxiously of future racial conflict. We are not concerned at solving the problem by their ideas. Our interest is in solving it according to the principles taught by the Catholic Church, which admits no unsolved problems in matters that concern essential human rights and the natural unity of the human race." Father La Farge has been tut-tutted by volunteer advisers, who have told him to leave the matter of race intermingling severely alone. "Negroes," they said, "are so much happier by themselves." To this he replies: "Quite possibly. So, sometimes, Catholics or Lutherans or Jews or Progressive Republicans are happier by themselves. But"——

"Race Riots," by Professors Lee and Humphrey, is strictly rudiments. It is the day-by-day story, taken bodily from the newspapers, of last June's battle between Detroit's whites and blacks. It will add nothing to your fund of information, even if you start with none. It is case history as only sociologists can case it, written in the social worker's argot.

If at some future time you should feel it necessary to refresh your mind on what happened in Detroit last June this modest volume should come in handy. It contains a gusty but not unfamiliar list of what to do and what not to do in the event you find a race riot on your hands. Therein much is made of the "dangers to the American way of life." But Professors Lee and Humphrey either have failed to discover, or they ignore, the ominous fact that the American way of life for which they are patriotically solicitous includes race riots and all the injustices that breed them.

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THE BOOK: Part I — "What Causes Race Riots?"—deals with the social and psychological aspects of racial tension, leading to riots; answers the question: "What can we learn from Detroit?" and weighs the human cost of disturbances—"individual insecurity, social paralysis, degradation of democracy as a symbol and dangers to democracy itself."

Part II—"What Really Happened in Detroit."—contains a detailed chronology of what actually happened, based on the authors' first-hand observations; statements of public officials, civic and labor leaders and newspapermen, with sidelights obtained from students of the authors of Wayne University, Detroit, who constituted themselves a reporter[illegible] staff. Also a summary of [illegible] by the Governor, Mayor, City Council, Police, U. S. Army troops, civic and labor organizations and citizens, generally.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGING PATTERNS

Part III—"What Must America Do?"—presents "an outline and description of steps that can be taken by any city to combat the creeping horror of race riots." The suggested steps represent a "composite product" based upon not only the authors' field experiences and opinions, but also upon the actual experiences of many experts and organizations in civic and political fields, as revealed in interviews and in published and confidential reports. The book concludes with suggestions for changing basic anti-Negro and anti-white patterns.

THE AUTHORS: Alfred McClung Lee is head of the department of sociology, Wayne University and also head of the department of social service, Detroit Council of Churches. He is author of "The Fine Art of Propaganda," "The Daily Newspaper in America" and other publications. Formerly a newspaperman, he has has taught at the University of Kansas, N. Y. U., and Yale.

ASSAULTED DURING RIOT

Norman Daymond Humphrey, assistant professor of sociology at Wayne, a native Detroiter, as a former Detroit social worker and Ford assemly line employee. He was assaulted during the Detroit riots when he tried to save the life of a colored man.

militant means, August Claessens, lecturer at Rand School of Social Sciences, says in [illegible] Prejudice, published recently by Rand School Press.

● "Democrats in many countries," he declares, "have learned the bitter lesson that there must be no compromise with totalitarianism of any shade or color if democracy is to survive. No freedom of speech, assemblage, organization or press for those who use the liberties to destroy such freedoms for others."

● In hard-hitting fashion, Claessens, who was once a Socialist member of the New York legislature, argues for punitive measures against perpetrators of poisonous race propaganda. He says:

● "Legislation must be enacted to punish severely persons guilty of spreading the poison. Entire communities must be penalized if they permit a lynching in their midst. Business firms must be punished if they practice race discrimination in employment or segregation in choice of occupation."

● Main [illegible] book is a discussion of the reasons for race prejudice. Reasons for so complex a disease are hard to pin down, but Claessens does a pretty good job of making the reader see most of the contributing factors.

Two Books Discuss Race Problems We Face Today

Chicago Tribune — Chicago, Illinois

"BROWN AMERICANS," by Edwin R. Embree. [*Viking, $2.75.*]
"RACE RIOT," by Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey. [*Dryden Press, $1.50.*]

Reviewed by Kenneth C. Kaufman.

Many factors tend to make America race conscious as it has never been before: the naturally heightened tensions of war time, the fact that colored races the world over are demanding better treatment than they have received from their white neighbors, the past, the shifting of great masses of population as a result of war industries, and a Negro press recently grown extremely vocal. Here are two books which shed a great deal of light on several phases of the relations between whites and Negroes.

Edwin R. Embree, for the last 15 years president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund and before that connected with the Rockefeller Foundation, wrote his "Brown America" 12 years ago; it immediately became a recognized, perhaps the definitive, study of the Negro's contribution to American culture. The present book is not a revision of the earlier, altho it makes use of some of the same material; it takes full cognizance of the social and political changes thruout the world which have dragged the American Negro problem out of the closet and made of it a matter of world interest.

Written with the utmost simplicity, and with considerable charm, this is the ideal primer for the study of the Negro's origin, his status from the Revolution to the Civil war, and from reconstruction to Roosevelt, of the various powerful influences for his education, of his share in the development of democracy, and of the handicaps which he has to face. It will come, perhaps, as a surprise to many readers that the American Negro belongs to an entirely new race, compounded of many African races, with admixtures of American Indian and European blood. Also that the Revolutionary American looked upon the Negro as a potential citizen, and rather expected him eventually to assume equal rights with his white brothers.

"Race Riot" takes nothing for granted. Written by two professors in Detroit's Wayne university who witnessed the unspeakable events of last June, it is a coldly scientific, heavily documented study of a phenomenon which is enough to make one wonder whether we really have the right to cast any stones at the Nordic supermen. It goes into the causes of this riot, which caused 34 deaths, thousands of wounds, property damage running into millions, and the loss of 1,000,000 man hours.

The book proves conclusively that axis agents did not touch off the spark; it lays the blame for the delay in calling in federal troops squarely on city officials, and draws a devastating picture of a moral cancer whose potentialities for harm are frightening. It analyzes the causes of race tensions, gives practical advice on what must be done in the event of race troubles, and in the long run offers suggestions for the evolution of sane race relationships.

These books demand to be read by every thinking American.

Men of Maryknoll

by James Keller and Meyer Berger

True stories—more amazing than fiction—about young Americans from Maryknoll-on-the-Hudson who have gone out to serve their fellow men in distant and troubled lands. Much of the book deals with Maryknollers' experiences in war torn China—a thrilling and inspiring story. $2.00

Anti-Riot Pamphlet Calls 23 Cities Racial Hotspots

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

NEW YORK—Twenty-three cities in the United States where racial tensions are acute are cited in a pamphlet, "How to Prevent a Race Riot in Your Home Town," released October 17 by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The cities named are: Birmingham, Ala.; Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, Conn.; Chicago, Indianapolis and Gary, Ind.; Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, La., Detroit, Baltimore, Newark, N.J.; Columbus, O.; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Chester, Pa.; Providence, R.I.; Houston and Dallas, Texas; Memphis, Tenn., and Washington.

Six Recommendations

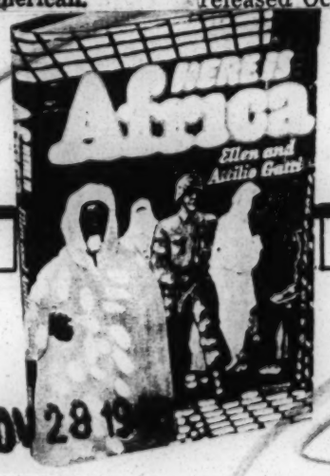
The pamphlet, which asserts that race riots can be prevented if community leaders care enough about loss of life and property, recommends that a public relations committee check on arrangements for bringing in extra police and militia in the event of a riot.

A similar check on policing of colored [illegible] neighborhoods, the establishment of race-trouble rumor and information centers, provision of work for all youth, and the enlistment of ministerial and lay church aid, were also suggested.

Riots Prevented Weekly

The pamphlet was written by Miss Winifred Raushenbush, secretary of the A.C.L.U. Committee Against Race Discrimination, who has investigated riot causes and prevention in many parts of the U.S.

"Race riots are being prevented on an average of once a week," the pamphlet states. "It is all in knowing how. Three weeks' organization of responsible citizens can prevent what happened in Detroit."



New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Here is Africa

by Ellen and Attilio Gatti

A timely, important, and absorbing "personally conducted" tour of the whole continent by two experienced travellers. It is filled with superb illustrations from photographs taken mostly by the Gattis and with fascinating information about the African peoples from Tunisia to the Cape of Good Hope. $2.50

Race Bias Fight Must Be Militant

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Race prejudice, if it is to be wipe out, must be combatted by

8-1943

In the Cause of Freedom

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

HARRIET TUBMAN, by Earl Conrad: The Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C. 248 pps., $3.25.

By EUGENE GORDON

ANY story of Harriet Tubman's life must, perforce, be a story of the Negro people's struggle for liberation from chattel slavery; any story of such a struggle must inevitably be a story of the Underground Railroad. Earl Conrad's "Harriet Tubman" is such a composite story and, as such, is one of the most important books yet written in the long list dealing with the history of the Negro people in the United States. It is issued by the Negro publishers of important historical documents.

The story begins with her birth "during the dark and starless night of slavery, probably in the year 1820" and, probably, at Bucktown, a small village of Dorchester County, Md. Her master at her birth was Edward Brodas, a plantation owner who rented slaves to other farmers. The story ends with Harriet Tubman's death on June 10, 1913, and—one might properly say—**deification**, on June 14, 1914, when citizens of Auburn, N. Y., listened in the auditorium to Booker T. Washington dedicating a bronze tablet to her. That tablet today is at the front entrance of the Cayuga County Courthouse.

Her Will Could Not Be Broken

In between these two extremes of Harriet Tubman's life lies the life span of a people. The slaveholding system, in its very nature, set out to destroy, first, the will and, then, the personality, of its chattels. Harriet might properly be called a symbol of the great mass of her people under that system. She was the Negro people in microcosm. The slave system broke her body and it broke her heart; nothing in it could, however, break her will or permanently crush her spirit. Neither did it break the will or crush the spirit of her people.

If the reader of "Harriet Tubman" be inclined to shake his head, discouraged, over what he might call the continuity of Negro oppression—feeling that what is recorded here is not much different from daily newspaper accounts from Hillburn or Washington Heights or Harlem or Beaumont or Detroit—I beg to re-

HARRIET TUBMAN

assure him that this story implies the continuity of nothing less than the Negro's will and determination to be a free person in a free society.

Always Fighter For Freedom

Slave revolts led by Denmark Vesey, Gabriel Prosser and Nat Turner were upsurges of a kind which had become commonplace throughout the slave South when Harriet was a girl. A girl, she was yet an old woman, doing a woman's work and being subjected to the indignities all Negro women were supposed to take as their mistresses took courtises. To fight back was as second nature with the slave. "Harriet Tubman" marks the continuity of man's passionate—yes, **murderous!**—will to put an end to slavery.

I once heard an intellectual "radical" say that he decried such a book as "The Ancient Lowly," an account of workers' struggles against oppression through centuries, because it emphasized the feeling that struggle was useless. Any compilation of isolated struggles, of course, would be as likely to cause discouragement as it would be misleading; but a story of struggles, no matter how long a period covered, linked together with their causes and their results, is a story of man's progress upward. Mr. Conrad, having a Marxist understanding of why and how things happen to men and women and children in a society, gives us such a story.

The "forbidden fruit which stretched away endlessly across the fields," the fact that "she could feed the chickens but only the Brodas family knew the taste of fowl"—these and other facts made her aware the first "without trust, presaging her lifelong spirit in direct contraposition to the lordly offensive of her overseer." Thus she was never a "loyal" or a "faithful" slave. She was loyal and faithful only to the ideal of freedom for her people.

The book has many quotable passages, some bordering on true poetry. One would like to dwell at length on Mr. Conrad's fine treatment of the abolitionist movement; would like to appropriate for one's own use Mr. Conrad's exciting account of this woman's escape from slavery and her subsequent going into and out of the South to rescue others. One is reminded of current stories of Soviet women behind Nazi lines.

No colonization schemes for her! The United States was her land. She had helped build it and she would not go away from it because Negro haters desired it. Harriet Tubman never supported the defeatist doctrine that "we shouldn't go where we're not wanted," for she realized that the very essence of struggle meant not only going where you are not wanted but fighting, if need be, to go there. Thus she must have scorned John Tubman, her husband, a "good" and "loyal" free Negro, who would not leave the South when she left. Thus she must have shaken her head sadly when, years later, she heard that one of his beloved "white folks" had lynched him.

The Story of A Truly Great Human

It would be a mistake to infer that Harriet Tubman had no feeling for the white peope. She had immense and deep and passionate feeling for all people struggling for freedom from chattel slavery or from the bonds of ignorance.

"Harriet Tubman" is a complete biography of a great American woman. It is almost as complete a history of the underground movement of that period. One wishes Mr. Conrad had kept child readers in mind while writing, for the material is of the kind to fascinate children. It would be hard to imagine a child, however, appreciating this sentence (referring to a letter written by Harriet): "The significant passage in the communication reveals the utilization of the biblical tradition."

There are others equally forbidding.

There are, on the other hand, beautifully written passages.

Mr. Conrad has written in the dedication of his book to his wife Alyse:

"This is the book that you helped me to do—the one that the white publishers would not issue. That is because this is of the people that the white rulers are slow to free. But free them they must or conflicts like the present will go until this matter is settled right. . . ."

Harry Hansen, **World-Telegram** book reviewer, did not like that and said so. He was sorry, he said, that Mr. Conrad had been so intemperate. Nor did the slave South like Harriet Tubman, either.

Bedridden Soldier Writing Book on War

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
SEP 11 1943

WASHINGTON

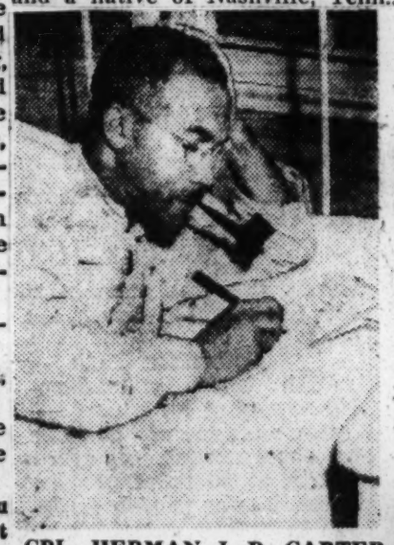
Acting Cpl. Herman J. D. Carter, formerly a clerk-typist in the Bureau of Census, is putting the finishing touches on his new book, "The Hidden Front," while a patient at the Walter Reed Hospital here.

His project, he says, has the blessings of Miss Pearl Buck and will be published by John Day and Company of New York City. It will deal with colored people in war-time Washington and in the army.

Acting Corporal Carter's ailment is only minor so he has little difficulty in making progress on his book, the first draft of which he is doing in shorthand.

Has Done Other Writing

A graduate of Fisk University (A.B.) and Tennessee State (B.S.) and a native of Nashville, Tenn., A/Cpl. Carter has contributed to a number of newspapers and magazines. His first story was "I'll Marry God's Angel," based on an experience in one of Father Divine's missions.



CPL. HERMAN J. D. CARTER

He was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., when he became ill several weeks ago. He was a typist there and averaged sixty-one words a minute.

A/Cpl. Carter is not exactly satisfied at being in the hospital, which is holding up an important event.

"As soon as I am able to get out," he said, "I am going to marry my childhood sweetheart, Miss Kathleen E. Patter, now employed in the Census Bureau as clerk-typist. We have been sweethearts for seventeen years."

"The Home Front"

DeLand, Florida
EVELYN WIGGINS SHARPE

Courier-Pittsburgh, Pa.
MORE ABOUT AFRICA

Out of 14 years of amazing experience as explorer and adventurer in Africa has come Commander Attilio Gatti's wonderful book, "Kill-ers All!" (Robert M. McBride & Company, New York, $2.75, illustrated with photographs) which sheds more light on various little known regions of this vast continent.

At the close of World War I, during those days of convalescence Commander Gatti was directed to that he became "deeply infected Egypt to recover from the effects with another sickness, an un- of a wound which he received quenchable passion for Africa and while fighting with the Allied Commander Gatti, there are two forces. He explains that it was "firsts" by read all of it at one sitting.

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The situation that faces the nation at war has many facets whose gravity cannot be minimized; yet David Hinshaw in his new book, "The Home Front" (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 352 pp., $3.00), takes rather elaborate pains not to deal in too great detail with the one facet that in recent months has come to constitute the gravest problem confronting war-working, war-propagandized America.

Mr. Hinshaw, little-known but well-informed friend and counselor to several presidents and a host of lesser officials of the government analyzes many of the situations that menace national unity in our country's all-out war effort: the effect on national unity of the Pearl Harbor attack; the scattering of seeds of disunity by Congressional brass hats; reaction of the people to the war; ways in which the administration responded to the war; the role of Congress in the war; how the nation's war program was handled by the press; exercise of freedom of speech in the war; reformers and the war; unior labor and the war; industry and the war; the farmers, food and the war.

Exceedingly timely and factual, Mr. Hinshaw's chapters are clear-cut, incisive and interest-compelling. His final chapter broaches a discussion that every thinking person today likes to get his teeth into—"Tomorrow's world: Will it be brave and new?"

However, the fact that Mr. Hinshaw gives only the all-too-brief paragraph to "the Negro and the War" leaves considerable room for doubt as to the valor and courage of the post-war world of which he writes.

One feels that Mr. Hinshaw knows only, and consequently writes only, of the token employment of Negroes in war industries that he doesn't know of, or closes his eyes to, the still-large numbers of war industrialists and Northern farmers who will not give Negroes employment. One is apt to class Mr. Hinshaw with the many who lack the moral courage to take a definite stand on a situation, which even though it affects only one-fifth of the population of the nation, still remains a grave situation. One is tempted to paraphrase Mr. Hinshaw's question: "Tomorrow's world for Negroes: Will it be brave or new?"

THELMA THURSTON GORHAM
Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Books of the Times

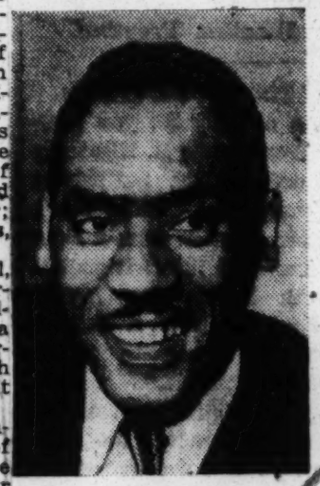
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

By JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

AMERICA. By Roi Ottley. 364 pages. Houghton Mifflin. $3.

"THIS is a war for democracy," says the anti-Hitler white American. "Brother," says the Negro, "I'm going to hold you to that."

The Negro's tone is polite. But it is firm. Both the firmness and the politeness are in Roi Ottley's "New World A-[illegible] Inside Black America,"* which started [illegible] be a book about Harlem and ended up by becoming a book about the Negro's position in wartime America. Mr. Ottley, who spent seven years covering Harlem as a reporter, editor and columnist for The Amsterdam Star News, knows both his home locale and the wider implications of his subject. He writes a vigorous prose, mingling history, humor, irony, drama and sober reflection in a work that explains the current status and the wholly reasonable demands of the Negro as no other book does.



Roi Ottley

In 1900 Harlem was a cheerful neighborhood of broad drives, brownstone fronts and quiet, almost suburban aloofness. Its small Negro population consisted of the black aristocracy, including Bert Williams, the actor, and Harry T. Burleigh, the composer. As the little Negro community expanded, racial warfare broke out, a war that the white real estate men were winning up to the time when the Pennsylvania Railroad, seeking a site for a new central terminal, paid $540,000 in cash for a Negro church in the Thirty-third Street district. With this money Negroes bought thirteen large apartment houses on 135th Street near Lenox Avenue, and the modern history of Harlem had begun.

Springtime of the Twenties

Mr. Ottley traces that history in all its tumultuous ramifications. Harlem is colored. But color in Harlem is infinitely subdivided, with African, Mongolian, European, Indian and Latin-American mixtures making the place an anthropologists's despair—or paradise. Since the purchase of the thirteen apartment houses on 135th Street black Harlem has become a by-word for overcrowding. In the Twenties Harlem had its brief springtime. "Keed" Chocolate, Tiger Flowers and Battling Siki paraded its streets; Marcus Garvey preached his back-to-Africa doctrine and sold stock in his Black Star steamship line, which ultimately failed for thousands of dollars. The Negro renaissance was under way, with Paul Robeson, Roland Hayes and Charles Gilpin becoming big-time names. But the Twenties faded swiftly into the depression years—the era of Father Divine and his comforting Heavens, and of Joe Louis who did more than anyone else to save the self-respect of a race.

Mr. Ottley does not willingly exploit the gray tones of defeat. But he can't get away from the facts of the Thirties, when 25,000 Negro families—or 50 per cent of Harlem's population—were receiving unemployment relief. That was a time when one block in Harlem was known as the "lung block" because among its 4,000 inhabitants the death rate from tuberculosis was twice that of white Manhattan. Father Divine made his extensive converts by offering a sort of communal system of social security: "One for all and all for one, but not for one who is not for all."

Resistance to 'Slum-Shock'

"Slum-shock" is Mr. Ottley's word for the disease whose current manifestations are the policy racket, rioting and "mugging." The Negro is not taking slum-shock lying down. Gone is the day when "café-au-lait" society was all the rage. Mr. Ottley has an inspiring, almost noble chapter on what Joe Louis has meant to his people. Joe is a prizefighter, [illegible] long line of Negro boxers that incl[illegible] Joe Walcott, Harry Wills, Sam Langford and Jack Johnson. But Jack Johnson, for example, was a flashy, witty, often irresponsible character, Joe Louis has a humble realization that by "proving" himself he can do great things for his race. Joe's bank account runs into six figures, yet he has been the most generous of men. "Before I retire," he says, "I want to put up one more fight—the best of my career—to help my people."

With his chapter on Joe Louis Roi Ottley moves out of Harlem into the broad currents of Negro life in America. He writes vividly of the newest Negro leaders—Adam Clayton Powell, the crusading preacher; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the National Council of Negro Women; Paul Robeson and Marian Anderson, who refuse to sing for segregated audiences; Ted Poston, racial adviser to Elmer Davis; Dr. Robert C. Weaver, the first Negro ever to earn a Ph. D. in economics from Harvard University, and Chrystal Bird Fauset, adviser to Dean Landis, head of the Office of Civilian Defense. Added to the names of older Negro leaders such as Walter White, these make an imposing list.

The Axis, says Mr. Ottley in his concluding chapters, can be decisively beaten only by men who are committed to an extension of democracy to the black world. For if the war [illegible] to be anything less than a fight to make the principles of the Bill of Rights a reality in this country, the kick-back is apt to be disastrous. Mr. Ottley says the Asiatic world is watching America, quite aware of the fact that a nation which is unable to solve its color problems at home will never be able to take the lead in creating a free world everywhere. Since Mr. Ottley speaks for a people that has determinedly clenched its jaws, his book should have the widest possible reading. The Negro today is on the march. Mr. Ottley tells us both how and why.

*NEW WORLD A-COMING: INSIDE BLACK

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

BOOKS

By BEN BURNS

Backwoods 'Hatelers'

"THE PEOPLE FROM HEAVEN," by John Sanford. Harcourt, Brace & Co., N.Y., $2.50.

SELDOM HAS a novel excited and exhilerated this book worm as much as "The People From Heaven." Reading John Sanford's brilliant, earthy prose is like making the discovery of some new rich literary ore. There is something so completely original and different from the run-of-the-mill novel.

In some ways Sanford has done for the novel in "The People From Heaven" what Clifford Odets did for the drama when he astounded Broadway with his "Waiting For Lefty." There is a genuine grasp of the bawdy, vivid speech of the man of the street. All the tragedy and humor of cracker barrel philosophy at a small town general store is crammed into Sanford's pages. And the picturesque portrayal of backwoods characters has the ring of lilting Irish theatre. In style it is almost surrealist.

Sanford in this—his fourth novel—writes on the bitter hate that is racial prejudice. He brings a strange Negro woman to a small New England community and paints with broad, bright strokes the reactions of its people, from the preacher to the prostitute. It is a triumphant tolerance at the finale that finds the Negro woman, raped by a rabid race hater, slaying her violater to the cheers of the townspeople, who have not the courage she has.

Perhaps in its pointed moral, Sanford is at his best. He is lamenting the failure of tolerant whites to fight the race haters with the violent weapons the "hatelers" use. His Negro woman, named "America Smith" by the town preacher, expresses it movingly when she says: "Why don't the Lincolns ever shoot?"

"The People From Heaven" is a strange, beautiful, long-to-be-remembered piece of writing. No Negro should fail to read it — but even more important, fail to bring it to the attention of white friends.

Harlem Fascists

"THE DARK STAIN," by Benjamin Appel. Dial Press, N.Y. $2.75.

ANOTHER Harlem hegira by a white author with good intentions and an even better imagination is "The Dark Stain," a blood-curdling fantastic thriller with all the earmarks of a detective yarn.

Whatever else may be said about Benjamin Appel's novel, it cannot be denied that it is exciting reading throughout. His story of the fascist front at work to stir up a race riot in Harlem is skillfully plotted around a Jewish cop and his girl friend. The cop is unwillingly forced to kill a crazed Negro. When Harlem gets up in arms about the slaying, the fascists step in, kidnap his girl friend and do their best to set off a riot. The common sense of both whites and Negroes foils the plot and the police are able to track down the fascist traitors through the good work of the Jewish policeman, who proves a real friend of the Negro.

Although much of this startling tale might well be borne out by some of the sensational revelations in 'Under Cover' by John Roy Carlson, still much of it remains far-fetched and unbelievable. For one thing most Negroes are not the gullible victims that some whites would think they are. True, there are some few crackpots but "The Dark Stain" has the tendency to overemphasize too much their role in Negro life. Too many books by both white and Negro authors have pursued this theme.

Appel is a talented, well-meaning writer who has a feel for the Negro problem. But he would do better to turn to a positive picture of black America lest the constant harping on Negro fascists create false impressions.

NOV 6 - 1943
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8-1943
Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Race Riots and Their Prevention

RACE RIOT: by Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey. 141 pp. Dryden Press. $1.50.

Reviewed by James Turrentine

Detroit's tragic riots in which thirty-four Americans were killed and more than one thousand wounded last June have prompted this latest study of one of the nation's most pressing problems. Two sociologists at Wayne University give a chronological account of the riots and conclude with a suggested program for preventive action which other cities are urged to adopt.

Their plan includes the establishment of two bi-racial commissions, one to be named by the mayor to work within the governmental structure, and the other to be a group representing leading civic, labor, religious, business and educational bodies. They would have these organizations constantly check and report tensions affecting Negro-white relations, incidents of race frictions, basic factors in living and working that make for tensions, and evidence of anti-Negro and anti-white agitators and organizations.

The two authors believe segregation must be rejected at the outset if the plan is to succeed. Without debating the wisdom of the belief, it is unfortunate that they dismiss this prerequisite in a sentence, for the unhappy circumstances which accompanied the occupation of the Sojourner Truth housing project in their own Detroit should have taught them that this solution, however just and necessary, is fraught with difficulties of the most trying sort.

The usual sociologist's jargon will deprive this book of a large audience, but it is nevertheless a book that all who are interested in the problem should read.

Sandburg Speaking

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HOME FRONT MEMO. By Carl Sandburg. Illustrated. 310 pp. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. $3.

By HAL BORLAND

HERE is assembled virtually everything that Carl Sandburg has written in the past three years, including the weekly column syndicated by The Chicago Times since April, 1941, and the text of the commentary Sandburg wrote for the "Road to Victory" photographic exhibit assembled by Edward Steichen. It gives an impressive picture of how one vigorous American writing man was thinking during this momentous period.

Inevitably, there is much about Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln the man, the human being, the President besieged by national crises. But the Lincoln in Sandburg is not merely a biographer's hero; he represents a spiritual kinship, a deep understanding and a community of viewpoint which shine through Sandburg's prose.

Leaf through the book and you see the breadth and depth of the man's sympathies and emotions. From the very first page one sees what one knew must be there, the pride in America and Americans, the deep hatred of oppressors, the faith in the people who do this world's work and ask only the right to live decent, peaceful lives.

Like every man who demands a decent respect for human life and aspiration, Sandburg was having his say about the Nazis and the Fascists well before Pearl Harbor. He has nothing to take back, in these pieces, and a great deal to be proud of. Back in April, 1941, he wrote:

"I agree with my isolationist friends * * * that if and when we save Britain there will be terrific headaches over what kind of peace is possible to negotiate. They think they know Roosevelt is leading us into war and national suicide. I think they know very little and say next to nothing—about what the picture will be a year from now, even a month from now. * * * Just now I am willing to throw in everything to save Britain. Beyond that, I agree with anyone who has a headache."

As always, Sandburg can write with salty humor, or he can touch the emotions, or he can slam into a subject with a hard-fisted haymaker. Now and then he turns to poetry, and toward the end of the volume are five poems which he calls legends and folklore. But there is a lot of poetry in his prose. Take a look at the piece he calls "Why Do Men Fight?" which first appeared on May 10, 1942, or at "Jefferson's Surest Memorial," dated April 25, 1943. Incidentally, there are several eloquent pieces about poets, particularly the poets who are serving their country today.

This is a good book to pick up, a good reminder of what our poets have been doing and saying while the fires of hate were sweeping the world. Sandburg was wise to include everything he did. It makes a readable record, a complete and eloquent one, of which any American can be proud.

Negro Chant, Redbird Song!

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

That's "Ziba"

"ZIBA" by James Ramos. [University of Oklahoma Press, $2.50.]

Reviewed by Kenneth C. Kaufman.

Evenings the Negroes came in and sat around on counters and boxes at the Forty-Acre store, and they chattered and chuckled incessantly. Sundays the booming voice of the preacher would roll across the waters of the narrow lake, and then the singing, and the store loafers would get to swaying and chanting in time with the rhythm of the exhorter's voice and humming an undertone to the songs. James Ripes listened to it for 10 years, all the time he clerked in the Forty-Acre store; after a while he began jotting down in a kind of improvised phonetic system the beauty, the color, and the barbaric splendor of what the cane cutters, sawmill hands, levee builders, and cotton pickers were saying, chanting, and mumbling. He gave it continuity and made a book.

• • •

Whether it is verse may be a moot question; some poems and some passages of others certainly are—Whitman, Sandburg, and Lindsay ever wrote verse—but from beginning to end it is poetry, and it is a new, rich, and powerful note in American song. The form is a kind of recitative, rising and falling in speech cadences, bursting into song rhythm here and there which sings like a redbird, jubilates like Saturday night, booms like a drum, or moans like a sinner under conviction, or a mourner at a funeral. Parallelisms carry it back to the beginning of all poetry, images make it shine, deft figures of speech give it subtle, deep wisdom. And running in and out like bright threads thru a woof of song are endless repetitions, themes, and refrains, so that the whole takes on the effect of a musical composition.

Indeed the architecture of the book is that of symphony. It begins with Big Iron's own extra special legendary account of how the white man's chicanery and superior magic lured the Negro from Africa, and made him a slave, and of how the white man's own plantation fell swiftly to attack, because he built his walls pretty instead of strong. Subtle and inescapable satire in that.

The patriarch Ziba [he might be Old Man Africa] has been singing his song a thousand years "an' never tol' it all" of how his sons ran the wheels off of Time and dogged Work so hard Work had to res', tamed Big Dog River [Mississippi to you], dug the coal, cut down the forest, built the levees, and started History to rollin'. And when they had a party, that was the only party ever made the snakes start singing. "Mule Mountain" [the Mississippi levee system, 1,500 miles of it] is a chant of labor triumphant and exulting—"We sang it up; we laughed it up; we joked it up—" with a deep dark undertone of sadness—"O, river is a part of me, deep, dark, and wide." "North Yank" sings the song of cane cutters on a sugar plantation and "Jaw-Bone Town," sawmill pageant, is filled with startlingly vivid pictures: "black skin shinin' with the green woods' light, steel muscles leapin' with their glossy wings," and "that's Kelly—a silver lip bitin' the lofty gum."

• • •

"Rich Stud" [a gambling game], "Big Spender" with "three dozen Stetson hats, 17 pairs of patent leather shoes, 33 candy striped silk shirts" give free rein to the good timing, tall talking impulse. "Angels in Overalls," riding a mule boat thru the clouds of Paradise, which has "got ever'thing 'cept chattery females," sailing along when the "cloud stage" is just right, running the boilers on wind dust and a mixture of blue ether and white ether, is a different kind of Green Pastures, without the slickness and sophistication, with vastly more grotesquerie and imagination unbound.

"Freedom Is a Word" brings the symphony to a resounding climax, grandiose in its rhythms, direct and startling in its deep wisdom, and glorious in its hope. Here, too, is satire:

"Lord,
Freedom is a word
Waitin' on the world;
But world is a box of lean meat
Headed for the slaughterhouse."

But here, too, is aspiration unquenchable:

"Ha, Sonny, you kin nail Freedom
on the cross
But that's a salvation word
Always gittin' resurrected."

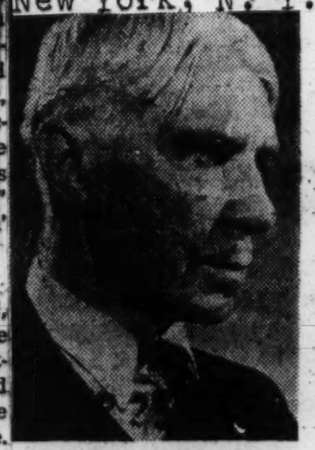
Here is a song of Black America as far from the artificial spasms of jazz as it is from the sickly sentimentality of Stephen Foster and his black imitators. Here is the Negro expressing hope, exuberance, joy, terror, sadness in elemental rhythm and melody, and along with it the elemental goodness of life without a trace of bitterness.

Books of the Times

By JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

"HOME FRONT MEMO"* is what Carl Sandburg calls his collection of speeches, occasional verse and "once-a-week pieces for the papers." The book doesn't pretend to be anything more than journalism, but that is nothing against it. As a matter of fact, this higgledy-piggledy, pell-mell, zoot-suit-shooting collection of off-the-cuff essays and chants gives us a picture of a troubled man in troubled times as nothing else could. In some of his judgments Mr. Sandburg is unfair, in others he lets his emotions carry him away. But the swift phrase, the glinting color, the wild humor and the ability to quote a good anecdote that have always been characteristic of Mr. Sandburg's prose and verse are all here.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.



Carl Sandburg

Shyly, toward the close of the book, Mr. Sandburg admits that much of his stuff might be called "Portrait of a Man in a Fog." Carl Sandburg has changed his mind over the years, as who hasn't? Before the spring of 1940 he wanted us to stay out of the war. In 1941 he had decided that he would risk a lot to keep England from falling. First he was for limited aid to Britain. He didn't think a new American expeditionary force would be necessary, but he gradually worked himself around to the idea that maybe a million or so American volunteers could do the job of beating Hitler. All of this Mr. Sandburg confesses quite candidly. It makes him as American as the Gallup statistics. For his driftings had an uncanny way of paralleling the shifts and gains and losses of the leading polls of public opinion. The changes that are recorded in the alteration of a book if it were end anywhere. If he commences with an anecdote about Thad Stevens, who once dismissed only that it wouldn't be Carl Sandburg. Carl is the sort of fellow who can't see a turtle in the road without poking at it, just to find out whether it will stick out its head and hiss or draw back into its shell. And having been figuratively through the Civil War with Lincoln, he is able to enrich his musings and commentaries on the present by recalling things from a long-buried past.

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Mr. Sandburg is apt to begin anywhere and end anywhere. If he commences with an anecdote about Thad Stevens, who once dismissed in this book only that it wouldn't be Carl Sandburg. Carl is the sort of fellow who can't see a turtle in the road without poking at it, just to find out whether it will stick out its head and hiss or draw back into its shell. And having been figuratively through the Civil War with Lincoln, he is able to enrich his musings and commentaries on the present by recalling things from a long-buried past.

Past and Present Blended

...iat that the common foot of man cannot crush them," he will almost certainly wind up by remembering something from an old scrapbook about Abe Lincoln's father Thomas. As for example: One day when she was alone with her husband, Mrs. Sally Lincoln said: "Thomas, we have lived together a long time and you have never yet told me whom you like best, your first wife or me." "Oh, now, Sarah," said Thomas, "that reminds me of old John Hardin down in Kentucky who had a fine-looking pair of horses, and a neighbor coming in one day and looking at them said, 'John, which horse do you like best?' John said, 'I can't tell; one of them kicks and the other bites and I don't know which is wust.'"

*HOME FRONT MEMO. By Carl Sandburg. 310 pages. Harcourt, Brace. $3.

SEP 25 1943

Man Who Killed Santa Claus

When he gets going on the subject of Adolf Hitler, Mr. Sandburg remembers the story of the meanest Scot that ever lived. This Scot went out of the house on Christmas Eve, fired off a pistol, and came in to tell the children that Santa Claus had just committed suicide.

The conspiracy of silence against the memory of Billy Mitchell, which not a few high-ranking officers of the Army were still abetting up to 1941, causes the reflective Sandburg to remember what happened to John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor. Ericsson could not get the Navy interested in his "cheesebox on a raft," but with the help of Lincoln the "frigate admirals" were finally overruled. All navies since that day have used armored ships.

The government official who said, back in 1942, that we weer losing the war aroused Mr. Sandburg's ire right on the spot. He wanted to know what "losing" means. It was obvious in 1942 that Hitler would never get to London, much less to Washington. And Mr. Sandburg suspected even in July of 1941 that Hitler wasn't a big enough colossus to sit on 180,000,000 Russians. How, then, could we "lose" the war? We might fail to march into Berlin, but such failure would not constitute defeat, even though it may be desirable that we reach Berlin before peace is made.

SEP 25 1943

Novel on Negro Is Praised

"Home Front Memo" is a good book for grab-bag reading. A more searing report from the home front is Buchlin Moon's "The Darker Brother,"† which is an excellent novel about Negro life in Harlem during the late Thirties and early Forties. Mr. Moon, who is white, has the wit and imagination to comprehend what a Negro boy must feel when he is unable to get work in a period when there is plenty of work to be done.

SEP 25 1943

As a commentary on our national shortcomings as "democrats," Mr. Moon's book should cause many t sit up and take notice. But it is first of all a novel, a fine darmatic novel, not a tract.

Mr. Sandburg would approve of "The Darker Brother" for one of the fine essays in "Home Front Memo" is on the Negro and the slums and Bishop Sheil's declaration, "Jim Crowism in the Mystical Body of Christ is a disgraceful anomaly."

†THE DARKER BROTHER. By Buchlin Moon. Doubleday, Doran. $2.

ROGERS SAYS:

AUG 28 1943

BY J. A. ROGERS

Roi Ottley's New Book Is Best Report on Racial Situation in America Today

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ROI OTTLEY'S "New World A-Coming" is receiving wide and enthusiastic praise. The white press, the Negro press, and individuals, both colored and white, are saying it is a good book. However, I have learned through experience to be cautious whenever I hear everyone speaking well of any book; but in this case, I find myself joining the chorus. Ottley's book is not only good, it is the best reporting of the present racial situation in America that I can recall reading at any time.

Mr. Rogers

Ottley had thorough preparation. For years he wrote a column on the inside of Harlem life; later he was a regular reporter; and still later a supervisor on the Writers' Project with a staff of researchers preparing a history of the Negro in New York. Much of that information—the book was never published—has been incorporated in this work, with the result that we have some accurate history, past and present.

AUG 28 1943

PORTRAYS FRANKLY CAUSE OF TENSION

However, while the book centers around New York, it deals in general with all Negro America, and in so doing speaks out frankly and fearlessly. It pulls no punches in telling about jim-crow discrimination in the Army and Navy, and precisely how Negroes feel about Negrophobe legislators, Hitler, and the Japanese. It gives a clear and competent picture of some of the evils that caused the recent Harlem outbreak as the high rents, the awful slums, the openness of prostitution and the brothels of Negro women for white men. This chapter is rightly called "The Slum-Shocked." But the picture is not at all one-sided. Following that is "The Cafe-au-Lait Society," with its history, past and present.

AUG 28 1943

ONE READS of this group, many are drawn from among the artists, writers, composers, musicians, actors, labor leaders, and the higher brackets of civil employes. Personal achievement, educational attainment, and a measure of economic success are the chief requirements for admission. Thus, at the top of the world sits the Ellingtons, Burleighs, Carters, Robesons, Dunhams, and Simms Campbells. Not infrequently is this group augmented by a sprinkling of Haitians, Africans, Chinese, and white intellectuals, active in the cultural and liberal movements.

AUG 28 1943

LISTS COLORFUL PERSONALITIES

"This is the glamour set of Black America . . . the Negro newspapers zealously report their sayings and doings . . . They meet frequently at each other's homes, or at popular cocktail lounges . . . where they drink expensive whiskies and fine wines and discuss the arts, social movements, and the color problem . . ."

THERE IS also much of both the sober and the picturesque—of the Black Hitlers and Tojos; of "The Apostles of Race"; of religious leaders, some of them well known as Father Divine and Elder Michaux, and some not so well known as Rabbi Matthews, leader of the Black Jews; and the late Elder Martin, "The Barefoot Prophet;" of "Pig-Foot" Mary, humble Negro woman, who amassed a fortune of $375,000 by selling cooked pigs' feet; and of Chappie Gardner, reporter, who took a Negro singer on relief, installed her in a splendid downtown hotel as Haile Selassie's niece, and fooled even the New York Times.

AUG 28 1943

SOME PLAIN SPEAKING

There are also well-written sketches of some of the Negro leaders, that on Adam Powell, Jr., being especialy so. All in all we find the color and variety of Negro life, especially of New York, presented with a freshness that is rare. The matter throughout is very readable and cleverly presented; in fact here and there a bit too clever to be precise. Exactitude and cleverness rarely go together, but this helps to add humor, of which there is much in the book.

Examples of Ottley's plain speaking are:

"The black man knows what he wants . . . Today his problem can't be swept under the carpet. Even-handed injustice has done things to him. He knows the tyranny of white faces . . .

"It is cold comfort to tell the Negro his lot will be worse if the cause of democracy fails. Negroes want tangible assurances that the loud talk of democracy is in fact meant to include them. They need assurances desperately. By no means will they be satisfied with mere high sounding platitudes . . . Tradition must be overturned and democracy extended to the Negro . . . Should tomorrow the Axis surrender unconditionally, Negroes say, the capitulation would provide only a brief interlude of peace unless the white world believes and acts without reservation to peoples of all colors."

AUG 28 1943

SOME ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Of course, there are errors in the book, as there are in all books, including mine. To name a few: Ira Kemp, Harlem labor leader who died some years ago, is still mentioned as carrying on; Garvey leadership was not "100 per cent Negroid—some of his chief lieutenants as Eason and Mrs. Henrietta Vinson Davis were light mulattoes, and J. A. Rogers was never in the "inner" circles of the UNIA—he was not even a member. More serious is the omission of Hubert Harrison, one of New York's greatest intellectual figures and most popular out-door speaker, who did so much to arouse a thirst for learning among New Yorkers, colored and white. (At least I did not see his name either in the text, or in the index). One would also liked to have seen the names of such stalwart radical leaders as W. A. Domingo, Richard B. Moore and Cyril Briggs. However, omissions are inevitable in any work, and do not detract from the value of this book.

OTTLEY AUG 28 1943 no prediction of the sort of New World that is coming. He probably remembers the kind of New World that Columbus' discovery ushered in.

His book is published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston and New York, and sells for $3. I must not forget to add that it won the $2,500 award for the best book in the "Life-In-America" series.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

*A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By Dwight Lowell Dumond. Henry Holt and Company. $5.

SEP 4 - 1943

This general introduction to our history extends from the beginnings of English colonization to Pearl Harbor. Professor Dumond dedicates his book to "the young men and women who may be troubled by the present strange ways of the world about them, for I am confident that they will find some peace of mind from the perusal of its pages." His volume is an addition to the growing number of textbooks which are concerned with bringing American history closer to the student and reader. For example, the colonial period is not unduly expanded although its high points are covered. On the other hand, modern times are given the attention they warrant. Professor Dumond is an authority on the slavery question, and his chapters on the pre-Civil War decades are particularly notable for their detail and analyses. The volume contains a group of interesting reproductions of eighteenth-century maps.

SEP 4 - 1943

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

A fresh survey of a racial problem which becomes increasingly urgent

"The Negro problem" is bigger than the recent violent outbreaks in Detroit, in Birmingham, in New York's Harlem and in certain Army camps. It is vital that white Americans understand their relations with their darker fellow men. It is equally important that we have the clear picture of the way the Negro lives, works and hopes which Mr. Embree, of the Rosenwald Fund and long an authority on the Negro's struggle, offers in this forthright and revealing volume. $2.75

NOV 17 1943

by Edwin R. Embree

BROWN AMERICANS

NOV 17 1943

The Story of a Tenth of the Nation

8-1943

LOOKS at BOOKS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

A Nordic Sees Harlem

Bucklin Moon is a Southern white man without color prejudice and possessed of a deep sympathy for and understanding of the so-called Negroes and their difficulties. Like all civilized men, he is incensed over the wrongs done to them and the snide methods used to keep them "in their place." In his novel "The Darker Brother" (Doubleday Doran, $2.50), which is a tale of a colored family migrated from the swamps of Florida to the jungle slums of Harlem, he sets down the whole sordid story of the tortured African trapped in the Caucasian cage. Although a strain of bitterness runs through it, the story is done with dignity and without condescension. It is a novel bad for complacency.

When Essie Mae Jo[illegible]'s husband died suddenly, she accepted the invitation of her brother, Rafe Randall, a Harlem "numbers" banker, to come up to the "city of refuge" with her two children, Ben and Josie. "The Darker Brother" deals with the experiences of this family in the big city, the contacts they made, and the troubles they had battling the color line. Rafe's idea is to educate Ben. He sends him to a private school but he has to quit because of the hostility of the white pupils. In public schools he gets in with bad companions. Rafe Randall is bumped off for doublecrossing the white gangsters who have muscled into his business. Essie Mae takes Josie and joins the Father Divine movement, to which she gives all the insurance money derived from Rafe's death. Then an excursion boat on which the disciples are about to travel to one of the "Heavens" capsizes, and mother and daughter are drowned.

Things go from bad to worse with Ben. The depression is on and he cannot get work. He just escapes prison through association with a slum rat named Slick. His sweetheart, Birdie, tries to look out for him and comfort him but they have a tough time. Then comes the war. Ben enlists in the Army and promptly runs up against jim crow in its most virulent form. Back in Harlem Birdie loses her job through a false accusation of theft, and in desperation becomes a prostitute. But in the end the two are back together again when Ben turns on furlough.

Bucklin Moon knows his Negroes and knows his Harlem—but not well enough. It is doubtful whether all the things he has happening to his chief characters could have been experienced by them. There is no difference shown between the dialect of the Southern and Northern Negroes. The characters are, in the main, automatons. All the things he has happen to them have happened to some Negroes of course, but not to any one or two. Thus, as in the case of "Native Son," the yarn is one of almost unrelieved grief. In view of this the enthusiasm of Ben to die for the U.S.A., is amusingly paradoxical. It makes him appear to be a

DEC 11 1943

DEC 11 1943

DEC 11 1943

Lewis Browne Pictures Fascism

If you don't think much—just let your alleged mind hop about—you will feel, between roars of laughter, that "See What I Mean?" is a belly laugh in print. But when Lewis Browne wrote "See What I Mean?" (Random House, New York, $2.50) he had a very serious job to do, far afield from entertainment.

One thing is certain: you can depend on the truth of his revelations, and the dangers they foretell. He was sent by our government on a tour of camps as a civilian lecturer on orientation. He had available considerable data on subversive organizations, dictograph notes, etc., which gave him inside dope on such organizations. From them he gained inspiration to write a novel that would snap Americans alive to the inroads being made on their minds by fascist and other un-American propaganda.

His characters are people you know: the motherly woman eager to "do right"; the insignificant who will do anything for a spot in the limelight; the greedy one who lacks scruples; the organizers of every type, with a variety of reasons, yet all working on the same scheme.

You will howl, roar and snicker. Not infrequently you will gasp or blush. But—important item.—"See What I Mean?" will wake you up. You will begin to analyze what you read and see and hear, instead of accepting everything as it is dished out to you.

EDWIN STREETER DIXON.
Chicago, Ill.

DEC 11 1943

The People from Heaven

With hate and prejudice as a theme, John Sanford has woven a novel about the people who fell heir to the villages discovered by Columbus and his companions on the Pinta. Taking its name from a quotation: "...And the others went running from house to house and to the neighboring villages with loud cries of 'Come! come to see the people from heaven'," this novel deals with the inhabitants of an isolated American village.

Into this isolated village walks America Smith, a Negro woman who unfortunately selects this bigoted town for her home. As a consequence of her arrival, the town becomes divided: the group which accepts her, led by the parson, Dan Hunter; and the group who makes her life miserable, led by Eli Bishop, the town leader. America Smith, herself, best states the plot when she says that she "is looking for the white face that would say, even only with its eyes, 'My hand is not raised against you'."

The true narrative is difficult to follow because the author has chosen to inject numerous poetic flashbacks which tend to confuse more than enlighten. Relieved of the intricacies of poetry and romanticism, "The People from Heaven" (Harcourt, Brace and Co., N. Y. ($2.50) would in all probability have been more effective and certainly more absorbing. The general style is most unusual, for after having carried the theme to such a powerful climax, the reader will be disappointed that it was not used to greater advantage.

LILLIAN C. IRBY
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HERE TO YONDER

By LANGSTON HUGHES

Defender
Chicago, Ill

DEC 25 1943

Books Are Friends

BOOKS MAKE [illegible] good Christmas presents. Especially for people doing their last-minute Christmas shopping, books are easy to select, the bookshops will mail them for you, and books are presents that always have tone, class, taste—providing you choose good books.

Many people nowadays are forming Negro libraries, or adding to their Negro collection of books. A volume by a contemporary Negro author would be, in most homes, a welcome Christmas gift. In homes where there are students or young people, a book like "The Negro Caravan," excellent anthology of Negro writings from way back up to now, containing stories, poems, autobiographies, and useful and compact notes on the authors represented, is a fine present. For persons interested in art, the Alain Locke book of Negro art, with its beautiful illustrations, or the James A. Porter's "Modern Negro Art," make delightful presents at Yuletide.

Langston Hughes

Negro History

TWO NEW BOOKS this fall by white persons about Negroes that I highly recommend as gifts are Edwin R. Embree's "Brown Americans" and Earl Conrad's "Harriet Tubman." These are particularly good for Negro history fans. "Brown Americans" is simply and beautifully written and contains many interesting facts not easy to come by elsewhere. For instance it tells about the black sailors under Commodore Perry in 1812, who made up one-sixth of his fighting force.

HARRIET TUBMAN retells in detail the ever-thrilling story of that great colored woman of slave days, with complete facts and documentation. It is a wonderful book for parents to give to children whom they are seeking to inspire to leadership. Negro parents must more and more put before their young the great stories of struggle out of the Negro past when times were harder by far than they are now. Such stories will serve to offset the despair that rises in the hearts of youth today when they come up against the current color-line.

To read about Harriet Tubman who broke her own shackles of slavery and risked her life many times to liberate others, is to put to shame those who say now that they can do nothing because of color and Jim Crow. Harriet Tubman was a slave. But did she stay a slave? She did not! Or was she content merely to free herself? She was not. Her story is a great American story. Give it to your kids for Christmas.

"The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass" is another thrilling true story for the Christmas stocking of a high school or college boy or girl. (Or for anybody who doesn't own it, for that matter.) A year or two ago, it was published in a new edition.

The Chinese People

GETTING AWAY from books by or about ourselves for a moment, this fall a great book about the struggles of the Chinese people for independence and freedom has appeared. It is called, "Battle Hymn of China," and is by a white woman who has spent most of her life engaged in the liberation struggles of the Indian and Chinese people. Her name is Agnes Smedley. She has recently come back to this country from China, where she passed twelve years with the Chinese armies as a correspondent and medical worker among them.

Should Agnes Smedley be lecturing in your community this season, be sure to go hear her, and go up to the platform and shake her hand afterwards, for she, like that other American woman back from the far East, Pearl Buck, is a great friend of dark peoples everywhere. If you hear Miss Smedley speak, you will almost certainly want to buy her book which tells in full of the vast marches of the Chinese armies into the interior, and of the heroic defense of their land that these colored peoples of the Orient are making against fascist invaders. If you cannot hear and see Miss Smedley, "Battle Hymn of China" will give you the flavor of her forceful personality and of her deep love for the poor and oppressed and battle-ridden of the world.

American colored people should know about the other colored peoples of the earth, Indians, Chinese, Africans, Malaysians. When our boys come home from the war in the Pacific, they will know more. Those of us who stay at home, can learn only through books. Beneath that Christmas tree then, put a book, or several books—Lin Yu Tang's, Pearl Buck's, Agnes Smedley's, or Nehru's great autobiography.

In that way you will be helping Santa Claus bring about greater sympathy and understanding among ourselves of the problems and courage of other peoples half-way across the world who are the same colors as ourselves — yellow, brown, and black.

The Orientals read about us, and are interested in us. I have received reviews of my own books from newspapers in India, China, Java. My novel "Not Without Laughter," was published in China in Chinese. The books of other American Negro writers, too, have been published in the Orient. Books help people to become friends, even though they never meet. Christmas is a good time to increase that friendship by giving books for presents.

DEC 25 1943

THE NEGRO IN HISTORY

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn
The NASHVILLE BANNER of November 24, in its book review section, gave a lengthy and flattering review of "The Negro, Too, In American History," whose author is Prof. Merl Eppse, head of the department of history at Tennessee A. and I. State College.

This review, as have others of the book, credits Prof. Eppse with having engaged in extensive and indefatigable research to produce his book, and goes on to express the opinion that the author "shows neither bias nor 'partisanship'" and for this fact believes the history to be an unusually reliable source book.

Not ever having had a text of Prof. Eppse's history submitted to us for review, we are not in position to express an opinion as to its contents as a text on historians. We do not know whether it is [illegible] praise he is given by the

daily paper for the painstaking efforts he has put forth to bring to the attention of many not hitherto acquainted with the fact that the Negro, too, has made a worthy contribution down through the years, to the advancement of his country.

The BANNER review gives one quotation from Prof. Eppse's book. This was in reference to the Reconstruction Period, concerning which there has been so much false propaganda published. Prof. Eppse's book, the reviewer states, pictures the recently-freed Negroes as having been "suddenly torn from their moorings and had not found themselves. . . . They were lied to, petted and flattered to such [illegible] extent by their pseudo-friends that [illegible] all ideas of making an honest living themselves."

If, as we presume, Prof. Eppse is a thorough student of history, we feel he has "balanced" in his book the achievements of the Reconstruction era against the admitted evils of that period, so as to show that even at that time Negroes made worthy contributions to the advancement of the South. This has been done by the ablest of Negro historians, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, in what passes for the best outline on Negro history—"The African Background Outlined"—which refers to the Reconstruction Period as follows:

"On the whole, reconstruction was a success. Unfortunately it tended to intensify the feelings of the races against each other, but much good was accomplished. Social reforms which the conservative element had formerly frowned down upon were inaugurated. The whipping post was abolished, branding with irons discontinued, land monopoly was attacked, education at public expense was provided for, suffrage was extended to poor whites, and representation in the government was based on population rather than interests. More consideration was given the laboring man. The good things of life under the new regime were treated as belonging to the many rather than to the few. The Negro was later eliminated from the equation but the good which he helped to accomplish has been retained for the benefit of others who deny him his share merely because he was never an enslaver."

Propagandists have undertaken, not without considerable success, to make it appear that the Reconstruction governments in the South were the most corrupt of any the South has ever had. Dr. Woodson enlightens us about this as follows:

"There was corruption everywhere, especially in the East and the North where there was sufficient wealth to invite such methods, but merely because Negroes were participants in government at this time, writers have told us much about Southern frauds in the payment of expenses and carrying out contracts for roads, canals and bridges which nobody ever used. Whites handled most of these funds and committed most of these abuses. After restoration of the former white ruling class to office, moreover, there was as much fraud in two of these states as that under the Negroes and the carpet-baggers, but writers fail to refer to these later abuses."

It is well known that very generally the output of history on the Reconstruction Period has followed the pattern of Claude Bowers' "The Tragic Era." There has been so little of truth to combat this prejudicial propaganda until it is possible that the attemptts of colored writers to compile histories may result in them being the unconscious victims of a number of the half-truths and falsehoods that have been palmed off on the public as history. We need to be on guard to prevent unscientific writings from being introduced into our schools and allowed thereby to "mis-educate" future generations to the extent that this evil has been perpetrated against the youth of other years.

Civil War History

New Masses

CONFEDERATE MISSISSIPPI, *by John K. Bettersworth. Louisiana State University Press. $3.*

New York, N. Y.

THIS work belongs in the school of realistic, awakening historiography. Because the sleep was long and the dream pleasant, the awakening is painful and the reality is disturbing; but they are there, and acknowledged, even if with some hesitancy and misgiving.

The author's use of extensive source material has produced a volume which demonstrates that the Mississippi of 1860 was a tyrannical oligarchy, and that secession was a reactionary *coup d'etat* engineered by that oligarchy for its own preservation and enrichment. It is demonstrated that the representatives of the ruling class of this state recognized from the beginning that the character of their counter-revolution was unpopular with even the white population. It was because of this that the Secession Convention refused to put the question of withdrawal from the nation before a vote of the already restricted electorate. As even the Natchez *Courier* of February 1861 put it: "We live under an oligarchy that has not yet dared to trust the people with a vote as to its consent."

And it was because of this that the same Secession Convention reconvened itself in March 1861, considered the Confederate Constitution, adopted it, and refused to submit that action to the vote of the electorate. The Lexington, Miss., *Advertiser* sarcastically editorialized: "A great government can be dissevered, national conventions can be held, Presidents elected, a Southern Congress established, and a mighty government put in permanent working order, fully *by the people*, simply through a little 'jumped up' election for delegates, clothed with limited powers, to a State Convention!" Eventually the illegitimate offspring of corrupted parents was distracted, plagued, and ultimately destroyed by its intended victims, the common people, Negro and white.

Bettersworth chronicles the non-slaveholding whites' opposition to the Confederacy. He devotes a chapter to the activities of these people in counties where disaffection was particularly rife, which were "deluged with deserters [who] enjoyed the patronage of the people." And he names twenty-three such counties, a full forty percent of the entire state. Here are resurrected the names and Chapayev-like deeds of such people's leaders as Newt Knight of Jones County and Ben Hawkins of Smith County who successfully led their fellow-farmers against "the hated Confederate cavalry."

The author's contribution concerning the Negro people is less complete, but does have value. He mentions several rebellions and plots, hints at the existence of belligerent groups of outlying fugitive slaves, and notes that a very considerable percentage of the slaves had succeeded in fleeing by the end of 1862; and he comments that "preventive measures [aimed at the slave] were hardly successful." Yet, as though amazed at the conclusion his data thrust upon him, he tempers their force by citing "uncertainties" in the picture of the Negro's activities, and finally attempts to withdraw his interpretation of his own material by quoting the musings of Thomas Dabney, about Negro "docility," muttered twenty years after the Civil War. He shunts aside evidence and even "uncertainties" and asserts "the slaves were . . . far more docile in wartime than might have been expected." But this conclusion, contradicting his own evidence and the additional material he might have found had he used the work of Wish and Eaton, and my own, has little value except to show the author's conditioning—a conditioning which leads him to couple automatically the words "Negro" and "docility," very much as a Pegler couples "unions" and "graft."

But the positive contributions of this volume are great. It constitutes another [illegible] of nails in the coffin of the moonlight and magnolia fantasia, and together with Shugg's excellent work on *Origins of Class Struggle in Louisiana* (which, incidentally, is not mentioned by Bettersworth) gives one hope that, at long last, a people's history of the South during the Civil War may yet be written.

HERBERT APTHEKER.

Harlem Is a Melting Pot Of All Sorts of People

New York, N. Y.

It is amazing how little New Yorkers really know about one [illegible] our most publicized districts—Harlem. Despite the [illegible] newsprint devoted [illegible] riot, most New [illegible] of-towners a highly distorted picture, a caricature, of what it actually like.

Harlem conjures up in many minds a confused mass of muggers, marihuana smokers, exotic hot-spots, dance-mad zoot-suited hepcats, looters, juvenile delinquents, policy kings and decadent intellectuals.

Harlem, to be sure, includes all these elements. But it embraces many more—mainly the hordes of honest, self-respecting and hard-working poor, and the thousands of

If you really want to know what Harlem's really like, be sure to read Roi Ottley's book, *New World A-Coming* (Houghton Mifflin Co., $3). Written in a lively, journalistic style, it is yet jampacked with interesting facts and is by far the best book about Harlem that has come off the press. It is a timely commentary on the background of the recent riot.

In a chapter [illegible] Shocked," Ottley lists the basic causes of the 1935 Harlem riot, which were essentially the same as those which touched off the 1943 riot – dependency, discrimination, disease, death, deterioration, professionals and small business-orated morale.

People are likely to think of Harlem's colored inhabitants as a single mass. Harlem, as Ottley shows, is really a remarkable pot of peoples of many backgrounds with many differences and rivalries. There are the rare "full-blooded" blacks," mostly from Africa's West Coast, proud and dignified in bearing; many immigrants from the West Indies, numbering about 125,000 people, a great quarter of Harlem's population.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago. Ill-

By BEN BURNS

"BROWN AMERICANS" By Edwin R. Embree. Viking Press, N. Y. $2.75
"THE RACE QUESTION AND THE NEGRO" By John LaFarge. Logmans, Green. $2.50.

Two Revivals

AS AMERICA and the world become more and more aware of the growing significance of the question of race, the literature of the land is being augmented by works about color. Publishers and authors both, grown lean and shaggy during the slim depression years, today are flooding the bookstalls with volumes designed to cash in on the new market for material on racial prejudice.

During past years many worthy books on the question have been written but because of the country's pre-occupation with the economic crisis, these failed to get a noteworthy circulation. Two such studies are those of Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, and John LaFarge, editor of the Catholic magazine America.

Embree's "Brown America" first published in 1931 has been rewritten by the author (now "Brown Americans") to furnish not only a valuable reference work but also a very readable book about American Negroes. Embree is well qualified in the field of racial relations and his writing shows his expert hand.

At least half of his volume is concerned with the history and background of the Negro struggle for equality and integration into the life stream of America. But there are at least a half dozen chapters built around the current war battle of the Negro on the home front. Some of the best writing to be found on the Negro question is in "Odds Against The 'Nigger'" a moving, stirring chronicle of the barriers black men face in a white man's world. Embree's personality sketches of Mary McLeod Bethune and Paul Robeson are also long-to-be-remembered pieces.

LaFarge's work is more of an outline of a fair-minded Catholic approach to the race problem than a book for general public reading. But even in its sectarian views, it is a valuable addition to the library of race books.

Particularly significant is LaFarge's approach to the question of outright discrimination against Negroes by some of the hierarchy of the church. He notes: "The Catholic Negro finds it's impossible to find a national explanation of a policy which actually excludes him from Catholic institutions." Rather than attempt to find excuses for such church discrimination, LaFarge instead devotes his book to convincing Catholics of the stupidity, injustice and ungodliness of racial discrimination.

LaFarge is no great shakes in dressing up his material with good writing but his heart's in the right place if his pen isn't. He has done a thorough analysis of prejudice that will reach thoustands of Catholics with the voice of tolerance.

"FREE CHINA'S NEW DEAL" by Hubert Freyn. Macmillan, New York. $2.50

MORE of a fact book rather than a political tract, which its title would indicate, is "Free China's New Deal." Seven years in the Far East as a student, newspaperman, and business man gave Czech-born Hubert Freyn enough opportunity to cram an astounding collection of data about the Chinese Republic into this valuable volume.

Freyn's statistical study is concerned chiefly with the relatively amazing advances of Free China from the semi-feudal past of two decades ago to the modern state today. Some fifteen pages of illuminating tables give a informative picture of the startling development of natural resources in the 78.9 per cent of the vast Chinese land that still remains in the hands of the government of Chiang Kai-shek.

While his book is essentially an economic survey, Freyn makes pertinent observations on the future of China's almost half billion population. He declares: "There is no doubt that this war, destructive as it has been, is for Free China essentially progressive. Much that was destroyed was corrupt, decayed, unfit to endure."

The war has opened up the Age Of The Pacific, Freyn says. Boundless China will play a key role with her vast resources harnessed by a unified people, if the different political groups can achieve solidarity. America has an important role to play—but not the conventional imperialistic policy of exploitation.

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago. Ill

By BEN BURNS

Yards From Glory

"ONLY AN INCH FROM GLORY" by Albert Halper. Harper & Bros., New York. $2.50.

LITTLE PEOPLE — folks who work for a living — have been the theme of a half dozen excellent novels by Albert Halper, one of the better writers of today. However in "Only An Inch From Glory," his newest work, Halper seems to be taking a vacation from proletarians and has turned out a bit of fluffy froth that has no particular point to it.

Halper has done better and probably would be the first to admit it. This is a long way from such fine books as "The Chute" and "The Foundry" but despite Halper's let-down he still manages to show sparks of brilliance.

Suspense is his main selling point in the story of two small town lovers in the big city. It is a simple tale throughout of Dorothy and Frank, of whiskey and sin, of airplanes and boogie woogie, of Indiana and New England meeting in New York City. It is an unpretentious piece that has no mission but to entertain

But for all its lightness, "Only An Inch From Glory" stays yards and yards away from what might pass as a good novel. This is one of Halper's lesser pieces and now that this vacation is over this book reader. for one, hopes he will see fit to turn his typewriter to better, more serious pursuits.

* * *

The Russian People

"THE NIGHT OF THE SUMMER SOLSTICE AND OTHER STORIES" Selected by Mark Van Doren. Henry Holt & Co., New York. $2.50.

ONE DAY not many months back literary critic Mark Van Doren got a big package from Russia. Inside was a gold mine of short stories on the Russian war. They had been translated into English but the translator was not known. Most of the authors were unknown.

Van Doren read and was given a literary shot in the arm. In this little volume which Henry Holt has published, he has included some twenty of the best stories. They are indeed dynamite on paper.

I have just been through the sham, hollow imitation Russia of "Retreat from Rostov" and these stories are indeed a wonderful antidote. With shocking simplicity and restraint, they tell of the horrors of Nazism but more than that, they give a revealing picture of the human qualities of the Russian people who are our allies in the war on Hitlerism.

The stories are charming and thrilling, subtle and delicate. They are tributes to heroes of the common man. The innate humor of the Russian people is evident in every page. It is the privates rather than the generals with whom these pieces are concerned. And one cannot help but fall in love with these wonderful men and women.

Read these pieces of literature. They will give you an exhilerating, fresh feeling, an appreciation for the men and women half way around the globe who are fighting and dying to keep freedom alive.

* * *

Peace, It's Wonderful

"AGAINST THIS ROCK" by Louis Zara. Creative Age Press. $2.75.

OUT OF the dusty history books of the sixteenth century, Chicago's capable Louis Zara has salvaged the makings of a mighty but realistic portrait of Emperor Charles V, a heroic but unsuccessful fighter for "peace in our time." Like Chamberlain he failed in a welter of wars. Finally he abdicated dismally in 1557.

The story of the perplexing struggle by Charles to find peace is told in eloquent style by Zara but like most historical novels seems to become hopelessly overburdened with the pomp and circumstance of court life. Zara uses a modern style of writing but the best of his attempts fail to overcome the handicap of too much research which results in pages and pages of recita of the costumes and customs of the day.

Lack of a dramatic narrative which might allow of a suspenseful plot also is a barrier that Zara for all his skillfully-fashioned pros is unable to counteract.

But for all its failings, Zara has nevertheless written a competent historical novel which cannot fail to interest students of history, if not laymen. In some ways "Against This Rock" is more of a biography than a novel but as either a workmanlike job.

Brown Americans

Enquirer
Houston, Texas

A BOOK REVIEW

Edwin Embree, who for the past fifteen years has been president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, has brought up to date his study of the Negro's share in American life. "Brown America" was published twelve years ago.

"Brown America" is both a well written, easily-read history of the American Negro and a searching analysis of contributing causes behind the many successes and failures that he has known. Negroes, he says, have had to build their lives in the mold of the New World. Despite their being torn from an entirely different social setting and having withstood the rigors of legalized slavery, they are still denied full participation in American life.

Mr. Embree's causative analysis of the distribution of the Negro population in America shows that Negroes comprise 49, 43, 36, 35, and 35 per cent, respectively, of the populations of Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama, and that there is a noticeable migration both to urban district in all sections and to northern and western states.

The story of John G. Fee, Embree's grandfather, in his crusade against bigotry and intolerance, and in behalf of equal educational opportunity for Negroes and whites is rich with information, inspiration and pathos. Berea College, which the late Mr. Fee founded, practiced the "co-education of the races," though its founder was mobbed, or otherwise assailed some twenty or more times. Kentucky passed a law, however, in 1904, segregating the races in all schools of the state.

The study contains an historical review of mission and public schools and of the colleges which are operated by and for Negroes. Statistical data on the representation of Negroes in farming, trades and industries, labor unions, businesses and professions, shows the various gains and losses in these avenues of making a living.

The book is a scholarly study and is worth several times its price and the time required to read it thoughtfully. The Viking Press, 1943, $2.75.

Books In Review

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Negro Genius

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, *by Mrs. Rackham Holt. Doubleday Doran, $3.50.*

THE feudal bourbons had denuded the forests and rich countryside. The earth could no longer hold the millions of tons of plant foods, for king cotton had long exhausted the soil nutrients. The one-crop system had yielded endless acres of waste-land and left a penniless, ill-housed, ill-fed population. It is in this soil that Mrs. Rackham Holt places in sharp juxtaposition the purveyors of hatred and divisiveness and the ever unfolding creative genius of the earth.

Against the background of a great Carver's work at Tuskegee was for humanity and he contributed his knowledge and research that man might prosper. This is in the story of Negro savant taught the trinity of the soil, the plant, and animal kingdom, which util-

ized the things provided by nature, the rearrangement of materials based on industry, and the transformation of the materials for the protection and comfort of man.

As an agriculturist, he introduced the system of the rotation of crops in the south. He pioneered in the development of new industrial products from the sweet potato and the peanut. Indeed he took that miserable goober apart and separated the water, the oils, the fats, the resins, the gums, the sugars, the starches, and created more than 300 new products. His exhibits showed milks, creams, ice-cream fillers, wallboards, buttermilk, Worcestershire sauce from the peanut. The waste of many industrial products was abhorrent to him. Every root and fiber had its use and he created many products from them. From rotten sweet potatoes he made laundry bluing and color washes. From peanut shells, banana stems, and pine cones, he synthesized wallboards. He changed wood shavings into synthetic marble and produced paper from the prolific southern pine tree. Cotton linters were used for the reenforcement of asphalt roads.

MAY 25 1943

He reintroduced and developed the Pompeian method for the dehydration of fruits and vegetables, which today is saving the United Nations valuable shipping space. Chemists look upon him as the father of chemurgy, the science which uses chemistry for the creation of new synthetics and plastics.

MAY 25 1943

Under the helpful hand of a white teacher, Dr. Carver developed his talent for painting. His fine mycological specimens and wonderful still lifes won him the title "the black Leonardo." Some of his paintings were exhibited at the Columbian Fair Exposition and one of his studies was in demand by the gallery at Luxembourg.

The president and guiding genius of Tuskegee was Booker T. Washington. Here Carver learned to teach by doing. He created the traveling Jesup wagon, which was a movable school on wheels for the demonstration of home economics, balanced diets, rotation of crops, and the conservation of land and lumber. To bring the message of the proper use of the soils to his people, Dr. Carver lived in Jim Crow hotels and dirtier Jim Crow trains.

The southern industrialists were "grateful" to "Uncle Carver" for creating new fields for their exploitation. They published encomiums about him. They invited him to attend that distinguished gathering of business men, the United Peanut Association. However, he had to wait for these worthy gentlemen to finish their meal and then was brought to the room through the back door of the hotel. His testimony at congressional hearings about the value of the peanut enabled the poll-taxers to obtain high protective tariffs for their industry. He was hailed in many southern newspapers as a great man, but recently a paper reprinted his articles and "forgot" to list the author.

Despite membership in the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Great Britain, the winning of the Spingarn medal for distinguished achievement by a Negro, "liberal" histories like *The Rise of American Civilization* by Mary and Charles Beard and *The United States Since 1865* by Hacker and Kendrick fail to mention Dr. Carver. However, the world of agriculture knows and appreciates the work of this "wizard of agricultural chemistry." In a letter of recommendation, Prof. James G. Wilson, later Secretary of Agriculture in Theodore Roosevelt's administration, wrote, "with regard to plants he has a passion for them, in the conservatory, the garden, the orchard, and the farm. In that direction we have nobody who is his equal . . . in cross fertilization . . . and the propagation of plants, he is by all means the best student we have here. Except for the respect I owe the professors, I would say he is fully abreast of them, and exceeds in special lines in which he has a taste."

This book is an instrument for the elimination of the cordon sanitaire set up around the Negro people by the lynch lords of the South. We are indebted to Mrs. Holt, for she has "held up a mirror and helped make others of his race better understood by white men, who seldom look beyond the color of their skins to the living human being."

MAY 2

JAMES KNIGHT.

The Literary Lookout

SEP 5

By SAMUEL PUTNAM

One of the most heartening items which has reached this desk in a long while is from the newspaper "El Tiempo" of Bogota, Colombia. In view of some of the things that have happened in our country of late, in Detroit, Harlem, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, this bit of news comes at once as an example and as a tremendous encouragement in that struggle for human decency and equality which we must wage unceasingly, from day to day.

June 20th, it seems, was set aside as "Negro Day" in the Colombian capital. The event was organized by the numerous Negro students and intellectuals of the city and took the form of an "intimate gathering" under their auspices; but the point to be noted particularly is the front-page publicity which was given the affair by the leading journals of Bogota and the warm, friendly tone of these notices. Can you imagine any New York paper except the Daily Worker putting such an item on page 1 and extending it enthusiastic moral support?

SEP 5

Chief among the organizers of this "Negro Day" was Nathaniel Diaz, a law student, assisted by a number of his fellow students from the schools of law, medicine, and education. Senor Diaz was the young Negro who wrote a deeply moving letter to Vice-President Wallace upon the occasion of the latter's visit to Colombia, a letter which was given publicity in the press at the time.

In describing their plans for the "Negro Day" observance, the organizers issued the following advance statement:

"We shall devote a few hours to thinking—in this fraternal gathering—of the Negroes of Colombia and of the world. Our celebration will be a simple, cordial one. One of us will read various poems of Candelario Obeso and Jorge Artel; we shall listen to a chapter from Richard Wright's "Native Son" and to various records of Marian Anderson; we shall observe a minute's silence in honor of George Washington Carver, the great North American scientist; and then—then there will be dancing, music, and a good time."

The influence which cultural leaders of the Negro people in the United States are exerting on Latin American life today is here evident; and one finds this wherever one turns.

As for the Bogota meeting, it was merely a prelude to the formation of a Negro club, with the object of founding a library and organizing lectures and other activities—with the object, as "El Tiempo" puts it, "of making our city the true home of Colombian Negroes." The same journal goes on to point out that this meeting was being held "without any defensive motive, as happens in other parts of the world. It is, above all, an occasion of rejoicing, with the purpose of providing representation and direction when the country shall have need of them as a group."

"In our country," the writer in "El Tiempo" continues, "it is not to be denied that there still exist many prejudices . . . racial prejudice ceased to exist with the freeing and independence of the slaves. In all the phases of our public life we have had colored men as true servants of the country, men who held no grudge but who were filled with enthusiasm and a true nobility. They may be sure that the country understands their high aims and that it views with deep sympathy this movement of solidarity that has been begun in Bogota."

* * * *

While we are on the subject of Latinoamericana (that's my own coinage—how do you like it?), here are a few odds and ends that may be of interest. . . . In connection with the subject we have been speaking of, one of the works that most urgently needs to be translated into English is that by the internationally known Brazilian anthropologist, Arthur Ramos, on "Negro Cultures of the New World." It was rumored some time ago that a North American publisher had arranged to bring it out, but now it seems the project has fallen through. . . . Meanwhile Ramos' book, "The Negro in Brazil," which he wrote out Money." . . . especially for a North American audience, is available in English (Marsh Elegy)" (Associated Publishers, Washington, D. C.). . . . Another important Brazilian work which is to be published in translation in the near future, by an eastern university press, is "Casa Grande & Senzala an (Big House and Slave Quarters)," by the distinguished sociologist, Gilberto Freyre, formerly a student of Prof. Franz Boas at Colombia. It shows the influence which the Negro exerted upon Brazilian family and social life, in the slave holding days. It is to be followed by a translation of Freyre's "Sobrados e Mucambos (Town House and Slums)," dealing with much the same subject-matter. . . . Meanwhile, Farrar & Rinehart have changed their minds about publishing the works of Jose Lins do Rego, Brazilian social novelist. Like Ramos, he seems to be getting the run around. . . . The war and subsequent turn of events in Brazil is already being reflected in the literature of that country. This desk has received Fire o Chao e as Estrelas (Between Earth and Stars), . . . This proletarian, vigorously anti-fascist novel is being compared to Mike Gold's "Jews With-

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3-1943

Dr. Charles Johnson Writes Of Hitler's Ally, Jim Crow

The Worker
New York, N. Y.

PATTERNS OF SEGREGATION, by Charles S. Johnson, Harper & Brothers, New York City, $3.00.

By Ben Davis, Jr.

JUL 25 1943

Mr. Johnson has written a very important book, filled with useful information and data on the pattern of racial discrimination in the national life of our country. It helps to focus attention on one of the principal evils on the home front working to the advantage of the Axis, and which is thrown back at us tauntingly over the Berlin and Tokio shortwaves every time there is a lynching or a Detroit or a Beaumont, Texas. This book is a positive contribution because it helps us to take the first step toward eradication of the evil, namely, the realization of the shocking extent of racial discrimination, enabling us simultaneously to take the next step, which is to deal with discrimination summarily and as a national issue—an issue of victory or defeat.

I do not pretend to know what was in Mr. Johnson's mind when he selected the title of the book; but it seems to me to be highly welcomed that he chose the more specific field of segregation. Segregation is, of course, only one phase of jim-crow or discrimination. But it is by far the most controversial of all the forms of racial discrimination, although the general principle of jim-crow is more consciously opposed by the American people today than at any other time since the Civil War.

JUL 25 1943

A large section of the white population still wonders about segregation being "so bad" although they are quite ready to go down the line against lynching, against "Detroit" insurrectionists, against job-discrimination and other more violent forms of discrimination. That is particularly true in the deep South, where a progressive awakening is taking place and where many Southern liberals who oppose lynching balk at touching the institution of segregation. Mr. Johnson shows that segregation is as bad as any other form of jim-crow, and that any idea that there can be equal rights for Negroes along lines of segregation is a pure illusion.

BEN DAVIS, JR.

It would be very difficult to incite white against colored, as the Axis agents are seeking to do in our production centers, if there were no Negro ghettos as in Harlem, Chicago's Southside and in Detroit in which the working together of Negro and white in the unions, and in other phases of the war effort, was not partially nullified by not being able to live together in their daily lives. Segregation has to be fought and eliminated as all other forms of jim-crow—indeed as a basic form of jim-crow—and any tolerance of segregation is a concession to Hitler thought and practice.

JUL 25 1943

Topical Classifications Are Open to Question

Mr. Johnson's book is divided into two parts, the first providing statistical data and case histories on discrimination (largely drawn from deep Southern communities), and the second dealing with the behavioral response of Negroes to segregation and discrimination. Some of the author's topical classifications are open to question, and some are actually misleading. For example, three of the topics under the Negro's reaction to discrimination are Acceptance, Avoidance and Hostility and Aggression, which, in my opinion, are mechanically and arbitrarily chosen without regard to the over-all motivating force of Negro life.

The Negro citizen's existence in America is conditioned by discrimination and the fight against it. The Negroes as a people do not "accept" segregation; they cannot avoid it except where it is defeated (the very fact that individual Negroes seek to escape indignities by staying out of jim-crow places is but the triumph of segregation, not its avoidance). When Mr. Johnson classifies organized opposition to segregation as "aggression" it seems to me to put the cart before the horse; the aggression is when fascist reaction invades constitutional liberties by jim-crowing Negro citizens.

JUL 25 1943

To accept Mr. Johnson's posing of the issue is to play into the hands of those reactionaries in Detroit who are trying to shift responsibility for the anti-Negro violence to the Negroes whose defense of their lives is supposed to have been "aggression." It is obvious, however, that this is not Mr. Johnson's intention for he studiously indicts racial discrimination as the main evil, and he pleads for the day when every American citizen, irrespective of race, creed, color or birth, shall be free and equal.

With some of the author's conclusions and interpretations, there has to be more serious disagreement. Mr. Johnson underestimates the role of the lower-class Negroes, the unskilled Negro workers—he even deprecates it—and tends to place main hope for the Negro's salvation upon the extremely limited middle-class, playing it up against the Negro workers. So large a portion of the Negro workers are unskilled because of discrimination, not because Negroes prefer low-income status; and, secondly, the Negro middle class, which is also a victim of discrimination, can and will play a role in the Negro's salvation, but in proportion that it identifies itself with the aspirations of the Negro workers, who constitute the great majority of the Negro people, and accepts the leadership of the Negro workers.

JUL 25 1943

Negroes in the trade unions, particularly in the CIO under the leadership of Philip Murray, are in solidarity with the white workers, providing leadership not only for the Negro people but for the nation, which is the highest form of statesmanship. Today organized labor, Negro and white—skilled and unskilled—is the backbone of our fight for national existence and for the success of the win-the-war policies of our Commander-in-Chief. Clear-headed recognition of this is basic for the Negro upper classes with which Mr. Johnson is identified, if the welfare of the Negro people, as of the entire nation, is to be advanced.

JUL 25 1943

The pessimistic tone which the author occasionally falls into, as for example, the statement that "it is not, of course, by any means certain that the nation has any fundamental desire to become a thoroughly democratic society" arises primarily from a failure to evaluate the positive role of labor in the fight for Negro rights, and also the failure to grasp fully the character of the present war as a people's war.

JUL 25 1943

Segregation and discrimination affect not alone the Negroes, but also is dangerous and harmful to white workers and other patriotic Americans. It is a pity, therefore, that Mr. Johnson did not include the "behavioral response" of white workers to discrimination, because it is in this field that the new and positive factors are developing, even in the deep South, where a Negro vice-president of the State AFL was elected in Tennessee. White citizens are becoming more concerned about Negro rights, and this is of profound consequence upon the whole Negro liberation struggle. These developments are by no means adequate, but they are sufficient to reveal a trend which has to be widened and speeded up. This cannot be done unless there is consciousness of the new trend as there must be consciousness of the old, vicious evil, jim-crow.

Fails to See the True Character of This War

Finally, there is a tendency in the book to treat this conflict as another world war, like the last one. This is a just, patriotic war for America's national existence, as was the war of 1775, and its very people's character has brought together the largest combination of progressive humanity, on a national as well as international scale, that the world has ever seen. In this situation, racial discrimination—whether anti-Negro-ism or anti-Semitism—is not only immoral, unjust and unconstitutional, it is a danger to victory. Larger sections of white America, through the imperatives of a patriotic war, are realizing, this as never before, although these sections have not yet been brought into most effective participation in defeating the Hitlerite racialists on the decisive front of the war, the home front. Meanwhile, the battle of Negroes against segregation merges with the battle of all other patriotic citizens to win the war, which includes the struggle to end the jim-crow system, the ally of Hitler. The war is bringing the issue of Negro rights to a head—the Negro-haters are more desperate, but the opportunity of defeating them was never brighter. The necessity for victory conditions all our thinking and acting. For that reason we must abolish jim-crow, an obstacle to national unity, all-out production, and to total mobilization of our fighting strength.

Equal rights for Negroes is not something which "may become a political necessity before the war is ended," as the author states, but is a military urgency now, a fact which Detroit will permit no one to deny. We need a federal statute against racial discrimination. The battle against Hitler abroad and against his agents and allies in America is indivisible. We shall win both if we fight them as one—we can lose both if we allow Hitler to divide them.

As one of the foremost anti-fascist scholars in this field, Mr. Johnson's book deserves a wide and respectful audience. Notwithstanding certain unclarities and shortcomings—which life itself will repair—it can serve to help provoke the broadest discussion and the quickest action to obliterate the shame of jim-crow from America.

Time
Chicago, Illinois

PEA

Blaze in Asia

WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME—*Pearl S. Buck*—*John Day* ($2).

In these 16 essays Pearl Sydenstricker Buck tries to answer the question which she says is at the heart of this war: "Can the white man and the colored man ever come together in any sort of cooperation?"

If not, "we must prepare for a future of nothing but struggle and war on a stupendous scale." For, says Mrs. Buck, the white man's burden is over. When the Axis falls day of little dark brothers and the we shall find ourselves faced by the blaze

in Asia. It will be fanned by the irresistible wind of a determination to be free, and kept alive by men who outnumber us by millions and who possess raw materials which reduce the natural resources of even America to small proportions.

▲ "We [have] had no man great enough or humble enough to declare at the necessary moment the true meaning of this war." Our leaders, stirred by local minds." Thus, our war are "men of not even a war to save civilization. I "We have made up our minds that though and do not try to take on that smoothness of finish" that characterizes the Fainterfere with business, and so instead of a Europe's peoples. We like issues to be

JUL 5 1943

JUL 7

simple—"Whenever our leaders have, in the course of our history, cut across the tangle of complexities put out by lesser men to obscure the issues . . . our whole nation has risen to new strength."

MALADY DOWN UNDER

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.
JUL 24 1943

Enmeshed in contemplation of our own ailments caused by race hate and discrimination, few of us in America sense the spread of the virus that has, it seems, made itself felt the world around. We know little of the problems faced by men of skin tones similar to ours in other parts of the globe—in South Africa and India, the West Indies and Australia. Thus it is with a feeling of astonishment that one begins to read Xavier Herbert's "Capricornia" (Appleton - Century, N. Y., $3.00).

Laid in northern Australia, the book sprawls over a vast territory and weaves together the lives of an amazing number of characters. With rich and vivid color, Mr. Herbert describes the country he calls Capricornia, and he peoples it with characters whose lives are harsh and pitiable as well as grand and brimming over with vitality. There are missionaries and Chinese merchants, government workers and the ever-present, dark-skinned women whom the white men call "black velvet."

Very much like an enormous tapestry that is unrolled in sections before us, the novel starts on its way in about the year 1885, with the coming of the white "settlers" to the northern part of the huge land that they had already begun to "civilize" in the South. There, met with the resistance of natives, who are ignorant enough to believe their way of life superior to that of their white cousins, the white men kill, in various ways worked out by civilization, and subdue the people who had previously dared call this land their home.

The main theme of the novel revolves about the problem of miscegenation, brought about by the taste of the white man for the native women. (Australia seems in many ways to hold similarities to our own South during the period prior to the Civil War). One of the children of such a union, Mark Shillingsworth, son of a white man and a lubra, is shown as he struggles to find his place in a world that is color mad. His life, like that of the other characters, is shaped and twisted to conform to the all-powerful rules of race.

Mr. Herbert, himself an Australian, discusses the many problems which follow the influx of the white man into a country originally inhabited by blacks. It is evident that the author has first hand knowledge of the multitudinous evils that have arisen there and he does not spare his country men in portraying them.

The novel is one that holds the attention of the reader through the sheer weight of one climax after another. The author has much to say and he says it acidly but well. He has built a turbulent, episodic plot that swarms with such characters as Yeller Elbert, Chook, Fat Anna and Con the Greek, all of whom, along with their fellows, are memorable.

One feels while reading the book that here is a writer, as well as a country, that is not yet nearly well enough known.

Constance H. Curtis.
New York, N. Y.

The reader who wants a lively, chatty book on government bureau

freedmen by a Negro church and people.

The biography, written and supervised in publication by Bishop Walls, has received long, loving, painstaking and detailed care by the author. As an evidence of the remarkable influence of the author upon the great minds of North Carolina and the nation, the introduction was written by the Hon. Josephus Daniels, who is probably the most outstanding North Carolinian of the present century. Bishop Walls, who never saw Dr. Price, is a graduate, of course, of Livingstone College, and it is generally conceded that he not only imbibed the spirit of the great educator and orator, thereby becoming the one man in the church, thoroughly qualified to write the biography, but that he is more nearly the equal of Dr. Price in the matchless quality of his oratory and zeal for education than any other man Zion Methodism has produced.

In giving to the church and the nation this long-looked for story of the life and work of Dr. J. C Price, Bishop Walls has made a contribution to the literature of this generation which will become increasingly valuable as the years come and go. For, though he lived but a short time, Dr. Price, almost unknown in many parts of the worll, nevertheless made a contribution to education quite comparable to that of Booker T. Washington. His appearance in England in the latter part of the 19th century, where he captured the British public by his golden eloquence and fine Christian spirit, resulting in a gift of $10,000, with which to begin Livingstone College, is told by Bishop Walls in befitting style and is proof of the enormous caliber of a great American, whose life and work might have been lost to our literature but for the patience, diligence and zeal of the author.

"Joseph Charles Price" by William Jacob Walls is a biography which should be in the home of every Zion Methodist, of every Negro in America, of every American, for it is a thrilling saga of Christian manhood, battling against great odds and overcoming them, an achievement, the art and technique for which the present generation has great need. Every person, particularly the youth of our church and land, who reads the story of Joseph Charles Price will be immeasurably better prepared to live in a world which requires even greater love of God and one's followmen than in the days of the immortal Price.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Fiction

THE DARK STAIN. By Benjamin Appel. 395 pp. New York: The Dial Press. $2.75.

How an American fascist group tries to exploit a Harlem riot.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

'Under Cover' Is a Sort of Miniature Guide To American Fascists

By MIKE GOLD

In a week-end hammock in Jersey I took a few riffles through the recent book, "Under Cover."

The author, as you must have heard, spent some years posing as an American Nazi, and got to know most of the crackpots, grafters and tinpot Fuhrers of the movement here.

His book doesn't offer much that is new to anyone who has been a conscious anti-fascist for the past decade. John L. Spivak and other investigators have already broken much of this sour soil.

Nevertheless the book is fascinating because the author worked from the inside with the assassins of democracy. His portrait of the intellectual leader of fascism in America, Lawrence Dennis, is, for example, well worth reading. Dennis always poses as a sort of a "philosophical Nazi," but the author of "Under Cover" shows him in intimate touch with such crude fakers as Brownshirt Joe McWilliams, even helping them directly to run their brassknuckle campaigns. Dennis, along with Harold Varney and other fascists, used to be a regular contributor to the American Mercury, the magazine edited by staunch Dubinskyite, Eugene Lyons. Friendship with Lyons made him a "good Nazi," I suppose.

But Dennis is as much of a "philosophical Nazi" as Coughlin or Fritz Kuhn. It is only social-democratic scoundrels like Eugene Lyons who treat Dennis as if he were anything but a Hitler agitator and gave him a "liberal's" tolerance.

The author of "Under Cover" has made a sort of miniature guidebook to all the varieties of American fascism. It is scary to realize the strength of the conspiracy, and to learn into what high places in government and industry the hand of bloody Hitler reaches. We are nearer to a fascist [illegible] and a revolution in this country than we ever imagine in our traditional smugness.

The race riots in Detroit, Beaumont, Los Angeles and other cities were but a little sample of Nazi strength. Nobody has yet been punished for any of these riots. The officials seem to be blase and neutral, or as in Detroit, boldly on the side of the Nazi.

A chapter in "Under Cover" gives a flashlight picture of the Nazis at work in Negro Harlem. Here the Nazi plotters turned Negro against white, thus playing both ends against the middle. Portraits of various Negro mercenaries and gangsters working for Hitler suggest that the recent looting riots in Harlem may have well been ordered from Nazi headquarters.

There was too much pressure against the authorities in Detroit who were doing exactly nothing about prosecuting the rioters. Some of the Nazi leaders in Detroit were in possible danger. The prosecutor made a dirty-dog speech in which he charged the Negro press and Negro organizations such as the NAACP with having caused the riots.

There was thus a motive for the pecan anti-white looting riot in Harlem. It served to show that Negroes themselves started all the trouble, and the task of the Detroit prosecutor is made easier, and the threat of exposure is removed from the Kluxers and Nazis.

No, after looking through "Under Cover" I, for one, am again confirmed in my suspicion that the looting riot in Harlem was about as "spontaneous" as the riots in Detroit and Los Angeles, and probably ordered and organized by the same central committee of the American Nazi movement.

The Biography Of Joseph Charles Price

Phoebus, Va.
Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.
JUN 3 1943

It is a highly interesting and dramatic co-incident that the biography of Joseph Charles Price should be presented to the reading public of America simultaneously with the dedication of the Price Memorial Hall at Livingstone College. Bishop William Jacob Walls, now chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College, author of the book, gives in his most colorful and romantic fashion the story of this scintillating North Carolinian, who became the nation's great pioneer in Christian Education for the American

PM
New York, N. Y.
RACE RIOTS
Nov 29 1943
Norman Thomas, by Alfred McClung Lee and Press, $1.50). A case history of the Detroit race riots last June by two eye-witnesses.

New York, N. Y.
THE DARKER BROTHER. By Bucklin Moon. Doran. $2.50. An authentic novel of Negroes in Florida and Harlem. The moral

8-1943

"75 Years of Freedom" Tome Traces Achievements of Race

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

AUG 21 1943

WASHINGTON

The contributions of the colored race to American culture are summed up and documented in a new publication entitled "Seventy-five Years of Freedom," recently published by the Library of Congress.

The book, which has been over two years in preparation, contains an extensive selective bibliography, based upon the series of exhibits and concerts held in the Library of Congress, commencing December, 1940, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the amendment which ended slavery.

Music Articles

The section devoted to music contains critical articles on spirituals, blues, ballads, social songs, reels and work songs, by Dr. Alain Locke and Sterling A. Brown, both poets and professors at Howard University, and Alan Lomax, formerly in charge of the Archive of American Folk Song in the Library.

The section on the exhibit of graphic art contains an introduction by Alonzo J. Aden, curator of the H.U. Gallery of Art, and is illustrated in color.

Exhibit Section

The final section dealing with the exhibit of books, manuscripts, broadsides, music and portraits, comprises more than half the volume, and is divided into seventeen parts, dealing with our role in drama, education, history, music, literature, religion, science and invention.

The largest portion is devoted to historical materials dealing with the anti-slavery movement.

Prominent Individuals

The direct contribution to American culture is reflected in the book's inclusion of the names of hundreds of individuals among the most prominent of whom are: Paul Robeson, Roland Hayes, Marian Anderson, George W. Carver, Countee Cullen, Paul L. Dunbar, Benjamin Banneker, Joe Louis and others.

Other Sections

Other sections are devoted to journalists, educators, Congressmen, social and political scientists. The extent of the participation of colored soldiers in the wars of this country also is indicated.

The selections of material for inclusion in the exhibits and the bibliography based upon them were made by committees appointed by Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress, and were constituted as follows:

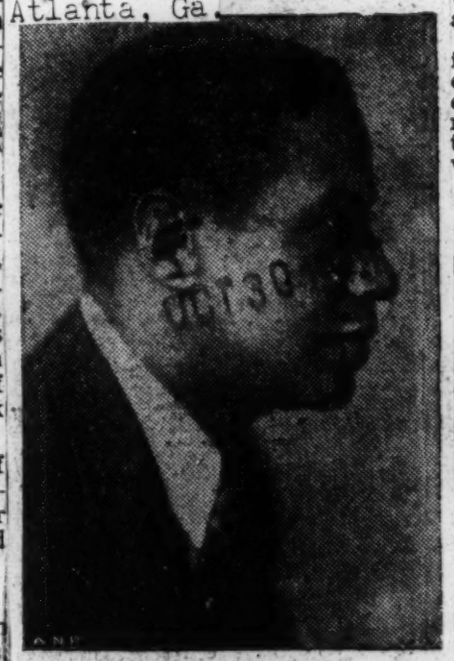
Music: Harry T. Burleigh, Miss Lulu B. Childrs, Drs. Alain Locks, E. Nathaniel Dett and W. Grant Still;

Books and Manuscripts; Dr. Sterling Brown, Mrs. Dorothy Porter, Drs. L. D. Reddick and Carter Woodson; Henry P. Slaughter and John P. Davis;

On the exhibit of paintings: Dr. Alain Locke and Holger Cahill.

Art Book Author

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.



JAMES A. PORTER

—noted artist and professor of art at Howard university, whose book, "Modern Negro Art," just published by the Dryden Press, is attracting wide attention. Mr. Porter travelled abroad in 1935 as a fellow of the Institute for International Education. Foreword for the volume, which includes 85 reproductions of paintings and drawings, is by Walter Pach. —(ANP) photo).

A HARD-HITTING PAMPHLET

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

I am very enthusiastic about this timely 16-page pamphlet, "Negroes in the Post-War World," by Albert Parker (Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York (3) N. Y., $.05).

It is a strong, hard-hitting, unrestricted dissertation on the discrimination and segregation the American Negro is forced to live under today, a form of democracy which the author deems hypocritical in every sense, and a foresight on what the Negro may expect in a capitalistic post-war world if it proceeds with the same tempo of today. With authenticity and justified bitterness Parker berates the bestial policy of segregation among our armed forces, a policy which he cites, the capitalist can very easily copy and uphold in every phase of national and civic life, pointing to the War Department as an example.

He is equally contemptous of and embittered by the actions of Uncle Toms such as Patterson, of Tuskegee, Congressman Dawson, of Chicago, and demagogues like Rankin, Talmadge and Bilbo. He assures us that the Negroes and whites alike must be educated against these men.

His conclusion is that by adopting Socialism, through the medium of a Workers' and Farmers' government, "Negroes will be able to meet and defeat the challenge of their enemies in the post-war world."

CONSTANCE NICHOLS,
Trenton, N. J.

BOOKS

NEW BOOK ON ART CALLED "INDISPENSABLE"

Weekly Review

MODERN NEGRO ART, by James A. Porter, Published by the Dryden Press, New York. 272 pages with 85 half-tone plates. Price, $3.25.

Birmingham, Ala.

BY MARGARET TAYLOR GROSS (For ANP)

James A. Porter's new book "Modern Negro Art" certainly deserves a hearing. It will prove indispensable for the student artists and those of the general public who would be conscientous enough to fill in the "missing links" in their historical knowledge of art. Mr. Porter, who is assistant professor of art at Howard University and himself a painter ,has made a contribution which has suffered a long need. For heretofore the story of the Negro in art has been fragamentary. Mr. Porter gives the first historical account of the Negro's contribution in a compresensive and scholarly style which covers the preiod from pre-Civil War days to the present.

It isn't writen in the abstract above the heads of the common herd, either. It is down to earth and pleasant reading throughout. The fact that the author spent several years in research is borne out by the voluminous documentation elaborate footnotes, well executed bibliography and illustrations selected with discrimination. Here is a book to be used as a reference and as a basic study of Negro art for many years.

Mr. Porter was stimulated to write this book when challenged by the statement that, 'The American Negro has no pictorial or plastic art." This spurred him to his researches and he states, "Gradually, the veil which had for so long obscured the past achievement of the Negro artists was rolled back and I can remember how piqued was my curiosity on first seeing an early newspaper account of Robert Duncanson and how my eyes were opened to the neglect and deliberate indifference with which Negro effort in the field of art was received."

Here we gain conclusive evidence that our ancestors, find that we ehave a heritage, a noble one, and we today can learn from for during pre-Civil War days our Negro artists had the strength and clarity to ally themselves with and Abolitionists and anti-slavery leaders. The Abolitionists were in a number of cases responsible for the fostering and encouraging of the development of Negro artsts The role of the A.M.E. Church and the work of Bishop Daniel A. Payne along that lines is significant.

The author gives us stirring information on the early artists, those more recent and the contemporary ones. His evaluations of their contributions in relation to the social circumstances of their enviroment are sober and intelligent and show him to be a sincere and capable artist. He chacterizes the period of the Negro Movement during the middle '20's and expresses its significance. He gives us an insight in to what is going on at present among Negroes throughout the country. Mr. Porter feels that the future of the Negro painter is promising and hopes that "the opportunities afforded the Negro painters and sculptor through the WPA Federal Art projects raise the hope that equal opportunity will soon appear through private commercial patronage and that the prejudice and mistrust that have restricted the Negro artists and warped his milieu will be abolished."

In the preface he expressed the hope that his volume would prove illuminating to students and lovers of art whatever age and nationality. I am certain it will. Further hopes that it will swell the ranks of friends of Negro art. I know it will for one shouldn't try to discuss the subject intelligently now without, first having read "Modern Negro Art."

BOOKS

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By BEN BURNS

"THE DARKER BROTHER" by Bucklin Moon. Doubleday, Doran & Co., N. Y. $2.50.

Hosannas For Moon

IF ONLY for the admirable advent of a white novelist writing a realistic, bitter, solemn portrait of the dire dilemma of a Negro in the white man's world, "The Darker Brother" would be an event.

But Bucklin Moon in his new novel has done more than depart from the caricature and Uncle Tomisms that seem to inevitably mark white writing about Negroes. He has written a powerful, expansive work that deserves a hearty hosanna of praise for its penetrating and sweeping picture of the criminal color line in America.

Unfortunately there will be some unjustified comparison of "The Darker Brother" with Richard Wright's "Native Son." The publishers themselves have made the mistake of attempting this. Moon's novel is no "Native Son" by a long shot. Whereas Wright wrote a brilliant sociological sketch built around a sometimes flimsy melodramatic plot. "The Darker Brother" is fine, skilled plotting but has virtually made no effort to probe deeply for economic fundamentals.

And perhaps it is just as well. For novelist Moon has covered the entire crux of discrimination so thoroughly that he would be overburdening his story too much if he attempted to go into sociological backgrounds.

Moon is an expert writer. His words bite and sear the very pages of his book. It is this mastery of the written word that makes his sometimes complicated, winding love story of Ben and Birdie so convincing. Covered are such varied phases of Negro life as juvenile delinquency, the numbers racket, the servant problem, army discrimination, Japanese spies, rent parties, prostitution.

Essentially Moon is telling the story of Ben and Birdie, two youthful lovers lost in a bewildering maze of race prejudice. Taking young Ben Johnson from the environs of a deep Dixie shack to Harlem and putting him through the grim gauntlet of Northern Jim Crow, Moon writes a raw, relentless drama.book which touchingly tells of the While sometimes straying into con ventional themes of white writers (particularly in handling the num

View Of Army Life

When in desperation over his failure to find a job, Ben joins the army "army of democracy," he finds all rigid segregation patterns down two human beings, whose only the wretched, rigid segregation life doubly enforced crime is the color of their skin, is tern of civilian life

the good earth and simple life of the South that he sometimes longed for in the hypocritical North is nothing but the freedom that comes with ignorance and ignominy.

Then comes Pearl Harbor. And it is here that Moon commits what failures may be noted in his work. For in attempting to give some logic and sense to the Negro's loyalty to his native land of America in its hour of crisis, he falls over backward in his final chapter with some ill-considered fatalism about men having to fight. While his intentions are meritorious, the author's efforts are not. The results are a mechanical, unconvincing bit of dialogue that leave a drooping letdown.

American Negroes have far more to fight for even in a Jim Crow army than some blind impulse. America is their homeland and they have defended it loyally and faithfully through all its trying days. Yes, their task has oft been thankless but in the struggle they have gained the comforting knowledge that their sacrifices have made them worthy, patriotic citizens. It has given the right to demand their birthright under the flag — "freedom and justice for all."

And in the struggle against Hitlerism and Hirohitoism, they well know they are battling for a just cause — the cause of liberty from tyrants, whose identity they know well both at home and abroad.

levee to keep back the water that comes pouring down upon them from five states.

With a little seasoning, author Guy may be able to handle his characters, story and moral equally well and give each its proper place of importance.

CONSTANCE NICHOLS.
Trenton, N. J.

"PLANTATION LIFE"

"Plantation Life in the Florida Parishes of Louisiana, 1836-1846" (Columbia University Press, $5.00) is a dairy which was kept by Bennet H. Barrow of West Feliciana parish, La., from 1836 to 1846. It was edited with an introduction by Edwin Adams Davis, Department of Archives, Louisiana State university.

AUG 28 1943

The dairy is a day-by-day record of weather conditions and all activities and events on this plantation and reflects Barrow's thinking and his concern over the social and economic problems confronting him. The materials contained in this dairy give an authentic picture of what life on a plantation in the Old South really was like, and discredit to a certain degree some of the more fanciful pictures which have been published heretofore. This account is not dressed up; it shows exactly what took place on Barrow's plantation. This is typical of what took place on all of the plantations of the Old South during those dark days of slavery.

The appendix includes an inventory of the estate of Barrow—the name, age and value of each slave on his plantation, his personal effects and real estate; the rules of the plantation as they affected the slaves; a record of Barrow's accounts from 1838 to 1845; a table of cotton sales during the period between 1839 and 1845; a record of all the births and deaths of his slave; and a record of the misconduct of the slaves and the punishment accorded them. It also contains a glossary and bibliography.

AUG 28 1943

The editor states in the preface that "An attempt has been made to make the diary readable without changing its original character and without detracting from its usefulness as a document of historical significance." Peculiarities in spelling, punctuation and capitalization have been carefully preserved for the "peculiarities of that time are of much significance to the present-day student of American social history."

The book is valuable as a source of material for a study of social and economic life of the Old South.

EVELYN WIGGINS SHARPE
DeLand, Florida.

the world of the future a beacon of hope for a war-torn world a panorama of a future Utopia toward which men have been striving since the dawn of creation. Here in a slim volume are his speeches and writings culled from the plethora of his public expressions since the New Deal came to office, but particularly during the past year when our thoughts have been fixed on the post-war world.

One may get something of the comprehensiveness of the slender book from some of the chapter headings: "Our Second Chance," "What We Have Learned," "The Price of Free World Victory," "Inter-American Banking," "The Rubber Question," "Russia," "World Organization," "Trade Agreements," "The National Debt," "Horatio Alger Is Not Dead," "Business Measures," "The New Isolationism," "Three Philosophies," "Work, Peace and Health," and "George—a Commencement Address." From these chapters you can not only obtain a picture of the world planned by the New Deal but also something of the problems confronting us.

If you want to understand what is going on and what is planned for the world of tomorrow, this is the book to read and ponder. You may not agree with the Vice-President, but you have to respect his knowledge and his sincerity. Certainly there are few more inspiring books in simple language for those who yearn for a better world.

• • •

OTTLEY'S OPUS

Roi Ottley is a bright New York reporter who has spent several years of his life studying the habits, thoughts, fads and foibles of the colored brethren in Harlem and elsewhere. His findings appear in the Life-In-America prize book, "New World A-Comin'" (Houghton, Mifflin $3) about which the literary world is presently agog. His opus is subtitled "Inside Black America" and it is well worth owning and reading. Already it has zoomed past the 30,000-mark in sales, and it certainly warrants such popularity. If you have not bought your copy you should do so at once.

After an inadequate start in which there seems to be a genuflection to the white folks, Ottley launches into an historical resume of the Negro in New York which is most revealing. It is by no means complete and there are serious omissions, but it gives a valuable background necessary, to an understanding and appreciation of what follows, even if it lacks something in depth. Indeed, there is much here of the superficiality of journalism, as there is in the chapters that follow, but there is so much more that is accurate that one is disposed to overlook the faults.

WIT AND HUMOR

It is easily and breezily written and (thank God) is invested with wit and humor. His portraits of notable Harlemites, while not too happily chosen and not always completely informed, are well written and sometimes captivating, as in the case of Rev. Adam C. Powell. Singularly enough Mr. Ottley ignores completely (with the exception of Pig-Foot Annie) almost all of the important business and religious leaders of Harlem, for more than a few of whom there have been many a good word. We are told that Garvey's Negro World accepted no skin-whitening statements of admitted fundamental aspects. There is more than a casual reference to the Garveyites marched around the old "hot-bed" of fact parade can remember when observers would have counted the records will show. We are told that 50,000 Garveyites marched around the old "hot-bed" of fact parade can remember when observers would have counted the records will show. We are told that 50,000 Garveyites marched around the old "hot-bed" of fact parade can remember when observers would have counted the records will show.

LOOKS at BOOKS

"MISSISSIPPI STORY" AUG 28 1943 Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Here is a book about one of the rural flood districts along the Mississippi and one of its tributaries. "Heaven Is A Sunswept Hill" written by Earl Guy ($2.50, the Macmillan Company, New York), a native of Macomb, Illinois.

Here was a chance for Mr. Guy to write a novel of great social significance, for these flood regions and the yearly toll that the river takes in lives and destruction of property is one of the great scandals of this country. But whether from lack of experience as a writer or lack of a gift to make stirring pictures, the author fails to arouse the indignation that such a gloomy story should.

AUG 28 1943

He tells of the hardships of a small community centered around the characters of Sam Drindle, his wife and two small daughters, Ione and Dorina, when the early spring floods come suddenly upon them. The men of the settlement have to first see that the levee, badly neglected by the government is packed with sand bags to keep the water from bursting through, then see that their families are loaded onto the shanty boats along with the livestock and other possessions that it is possible for them to move. For several days the whole community huddles together on high point waiting for the water to fall again so they might go home and try to get in a crop. There is a fine spirit of comradeship and goodwill and willingness to help one another that prevails through the whole period of the flood.

AUG 28 1943

Most noteworthy, if a true picture, and I have no reason to doubt it, is the friendship that exists between Sam and a colored fellow named George, who vaguely belongs in the community somewhere. Sam believes that all people should be treated alike no matter what color and is very indignant that "poor white trash" Abe threatened to put George off his land if he didn't get a mule to replace the one he lost in the flood. "The Flats" as the flood area is called, is left with the flood waters subsided, the families returned to their homes, a rainbow in the sky but with no promise that the flood will not return the next year or the government, referred to as a storekeeper government, will do anything about strengthening the

LOOKS at BOOKS

VISION OF A NEW WORLD 6/ Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Of all the New Dealers who have garnered the spotlight since 1932, only Vice-President Henry A. Wallace remains authoritative and universally respected. In his book "The Century of the Common Man" (Reynal & Hitchcock, $1.50), he gives us the New Deal vision of the world to come when the arms are stacked the battleships taken to report and the tanks shrouded with tarpaulin. This is a blueprint of

8-1943

BOOKS

Chicago, Ill. Defender

By STANLEY J. MARKS

(Author of "The Bear That Walks Like A Man")

"BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN"
By Carey McWilliams
Little Brown & Co. - $3

ANY DAY NOW the newspapers will be carrying a statement that Dies, the "poll-taxer," had concluded that Carey McWilliams is a menace to the United States because he believes that the white and black man in America should be given equal justice before the law.

JUN 12 1943

McWilliams has written a powerful, truthful and gripping story of how the United States, born under the phrase "the land of the free," has denied equal political and economic justice to the various racial minorities in our country. The Negro has many companion races which are denied justice, the Indians, the Mexicans, the Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiians, Puerto Ricans and Filipinos.

He writes from a world view on what occurs when the other races in Europe, India, South America, Central America, Mexico and Africa read about racial discrimination in the United States.

He steps out on the limb and proclaims his program that will lead to actual justice, not theoretical justice, to the various races owing allegiance to the United States. The author asserts, correctly, that racism is a national problem, not a state problem, that the Federal government has failed to protect the various minorities because it did not choose to do so.

JUN 12 1943

McWilliams emphasizes that the government could easily do away with racial discrimination by inserting clauses in all grants or subsidies given to state or local government preventing such bodies from discriminating against color, race or creed.

The greatest weapon that the United States has given to Hitler is the weapon of propaganda which permits Hitler to proclaim that the United States promises justice to colored races but never fulfills its promises. The world cannot survive half free and half slave.

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

Harlem Library Exhibit Displays Ottley Book

The original drawings, typescript, and galley of Roi Ottley's Life-in-America Prize Book, "New World A-Coming," sub-titled "Inside Black America," are on display at the 135th st. branch of New York Public Library in the Exhibition Room of the Schomburg Collection of Negro literature, 104 W. 136 st.

The exhibit occupies three display cases and includes a large photograph of Roi Ottley, an autographed copy of the book, and the 12 original line drawings showing scenes of various aspects of life in Harlem by John O'Hara Cosgrove 2d, now in the armed service. Since the book deals largely with Negro life in Harlem, two other books on Harlem are included: "Black Manhattan," by James Weldon Johnson, and "Harlem: Negro Metropolis," by Claude McKay.

The exhibit will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, except Sundays and holidays, until October 15.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

'Bleeding Kansas' Is Setting Of Strong, Historical Novel

THE SUN SHINES WEST, by Nathan Schachner. Published by D. Appleton-Century Company; 508 pages; $3.

Nathan Schachner, author of "By the Dim Lamps," "The King's Passenger" and "Aaron Burr," is past-master of the art of the historic, panoramic novel. Months of research preceded the writing of "The Sun Shines West," and the result is a thrilling tale of pioneer adventure, based on a wealth of unpublished manuscripts, as well as on other source material. In the foreword, Mr. Schachner states:

"The struggle for 'Bleeding Kansas,' novelized in the following pages, has significant meaning for our own times if we can but grasp the strange implications of the parallel. Like the recent deadly struggle in Spain, Kansas was at once a curtain-raiser and a testing-ground for a larger and mightier battle to come. Both sides tried out the mettle of their opponents on a distant soil while ostensibly at peace at home, and tested new and deadlier weapons for the future. In Spain, it was the airplane as a destroyer of cities; in Kansas, it was the quick-firing, remarkably accurate Sharp's rifle. In both cases there were those who profited by the experiment and those who did not."

Delia Ware, a Mayberry, of Boston, born and reared in luxury, developed an abstract, fanatical zeal for abolitionism. With the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, which threw open the hitherto free territories to the possibility of slavery, as emigrant trains left Boston for Kansas, her desire grew to actually participate in the cause.

She finally persuaded her husband, a young Harvard professor, Jonathan Ware, to take her on the third emigrant train. Although lukewarm on the abolition question, he soon discovered himself through the hardships of building for the future in the opening West. Hunger, privation, and the unkindness of a pioneer land did not fan Delia's ardor, rather she slowly distintegrated into a complaining, neurotic and vicious shell. Not so with Susan Bowen, bred to hardship on the rocky soil of Vermont.

OCT 31 1943

The romantic plot, although not lacking in vigor, is, however, incidental to the story of bleeding Kansas in the period 1854-61. Jonathan Ware was not the firebrand type. He was a conservative, yet when action was necessary, he had the stamina and mental poise to meet it squarely and well. Susan Bowen was made of the same cloth, while Delia lacked the stauncher qualities with which to fortify her fluctuating enthusiasms.

The characters in this not too unusual triangle are well drawn. Against the background of actual history, the raids of John Brown, the smashing of barrooms, and the fight of Kansas against border ruffians from Missouri, they hold their own, even if they do not stand out too clearly against the more thrilling historical struggle. "The Sun Shines West" is excellent reading, filled with action and excitement, giving a background picture of the trend of American thought and turmoil preparatory to the Civil War. —M. J.

Unhappy Tale of Negro Life and Struggle

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

"THE DAINKER BROTHER," by Bucklin Moon. [Doubleday, Doran, $2.50.]

Reviewed by Walter Havighurst.

The hard, unhappy theme of this outspoken novel is that a Negro must struggle for survival in America, and for survival only. Young Ben Johnson as a boy in Florida has the high spirits of any 12 year old, but he also has a swift dejection. He has already realized the color of his skin. The next 10 years in his story show the bitter steps in that full realization.

After the death of his father Ben is taken north to live with his uncle in the promised land of Harlem. On that journey, at the Mason-Dixon line, the widowed mother takes her two children from the Jim Crow car to the other part of the train.

To Ben that is a startling experience, and he seems suddenly to have entered a new world of equality and freedom. But in the streets, schools, and playgrounds of New York he soon learns that he has not left the color line behind. It is a Jim Crow country, and a Jim Crow world. And it is a Jim Crow army that Ben finally joins to play his part in a world at war.

Here, of course, is one of the somber concerns of our time, and this story handles it in terms which dramatize but do not clarify and enlighten the problem. There is more anger in the novel than pity and understanding.

The poignant incident of transfer from a Jim Crow coach is more memorable than the melodrama of Ben's Uncle Lafe who is murdered by rivals in the policy racket, and the violent end that comes to the petty career in crime of Slick Adams, Ben's best friend.

The most affecting characters in the novel are the two women who bolster Ben's life. There is Essie Mae, his mother, alien and confused in the Promised Land of the north, turning with hope and trust to the religious cult of Father Gabriel. And there is Birdie, Ben's young wife, whose courage and integrity are the most hopeful notes in this grim, unhappy book.

Lauds Hastie

Guardian 1943

Blast at Jim Crow Air Corps

Boston,

ROWAYTON, CONN. — "I've just read Judge Hastie's booklet "On Clipped Wings" writes J. R. Tunis author of popular sports novels, for youth. "It makes me feel like resigning from the human race."

Tunis, whose book titles include "Champion's Choice," "Choosing a College", "Democracy and Sports" alluded to a discriminatory practices in the pamphlet by William H. Hastie Army Air Corps. It is available published recently by the at the NAACP National Office NAACP. 69th 5th Avenue, New York City at 10c per copy.

Hastie resigned this year as Civilian Aide to Secretary of War, Stimson after serving for more than a year. In his pamphlet he brings into sharp focus, conditions as he found them in the War Department. The pamphlet deals specifically with the subject of

Coming: Nov. 8. Important, Constructive:

RACE RIOT

OCT 18
New Republic
New York, N. Y.

How Does It Start? What Must We Do?

Not only a startling eye-witness account of Detroit's race riot but a probing analysis of race tensions and a concrete *practicable* program for race-riot prevention—by A. M. Lee and N. D. Humphrey, Wayne University sociologists. Highly recommended by Walter White (Sec., NAACP), W. H. Baldwin (Pres., Urban League), F. E. Johnson (Sec., Federal Council of Churches). "A fine contribution toward the prevention of future excesses of this kind."—R. J. Thomas (Pres., United Auto Workers). *Coming, Nov. 8.* $1.50

★

THE NEGRO CARAVAN

"A Great Book"—N. Y. TIMES

OCT 18 1943

The standard 1,100-page book of fiction, poems, plays, essays, blues, etc., from Douglass to Richard Wright. "Should be in every library, however modest."—N. Y. Herald Tribune. With introductions by Sterling Brown, A. P. Davis, U. Lee. Trade edition, $4.50; educational edition, $3.50.

OCT 18 1943

MODERN NEGRO ART

The first comprehensive presentation of American Negro art by James A. Porter. With 85 beautiful halftones. "Of permanent value and extreme importance."—Walter Bach. $3.25

THE DRYDEN PRESS ★ NEW YORK
ONE HUNDRED THREE PARK AVENUE

AND THE NEGRO

By John Lafarge

This book discusses race relations as they concern the Negro in the United States and suggests practical, concrete methods for the practice of interracial justice. The author writes after fifteen years of experience and study in groups working for interracial understanding. $2.50

New York Times

"WHAT BOOKS FOR FACE PREJUDICE." By Evans Clark. 22 pp. New York Herald Tribune Forum on Books, 313 West 40th St., New York Press, 25 cents.

New York Times

THE RACE QUESTION

This book has got people thinking

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

It's got them laughing too. It's got them reading excitedly. It's got them fanning the pages to look ahead because they want to read it all at once.

They want to read about café-au-lait society and just what Joe Louis means to the Negroes.

OCT 18 1943

They want to feel that they are talking without embarrassment to a Negro about his color, exactly what he thinks and feels, and about what his people feel — both rich and poor, pullman porter and top-flight lawyer.

They want to know what Communism and Fascism mean to Negroes, or mixed marriages, or 'permanent straights.'

They want to understand how Harlem has become a political centre in an enormous cosmopolitan world, a world without the simple certainties of our white one, a world which has achieved a true tolerance of race, creed and color and which is powered with the hope of a new world coming.

OCT 18 1943

New World A-Coming

BY ROI OTTLEY

A new best seller and a Life-in-America prize book. Price $3.00

OCT 18 1943

Now in its 5th printing

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY PUBLISHERS

Bucklin Moon Has Written A Strong Book On The Negro

News

THE DARKER BROTHER, by Bucklin Moon. Published by Doubleday, Doran & Co.; 246 pages; $2.50.

Birmingham, Ala.

THE DARKER BROTHER is the story of a Negro family. Essie Mae, after the death of her man, took her two children, Ben and Josie, from Florida to New York where her brother had made a cautious fortune in the numbers racket. She did not belong in Harlem. Idle hands did not become her, and it was not until she discovered a brief respite in a "Heaven" of Father Gabriel, that she found inner peace and happiness.

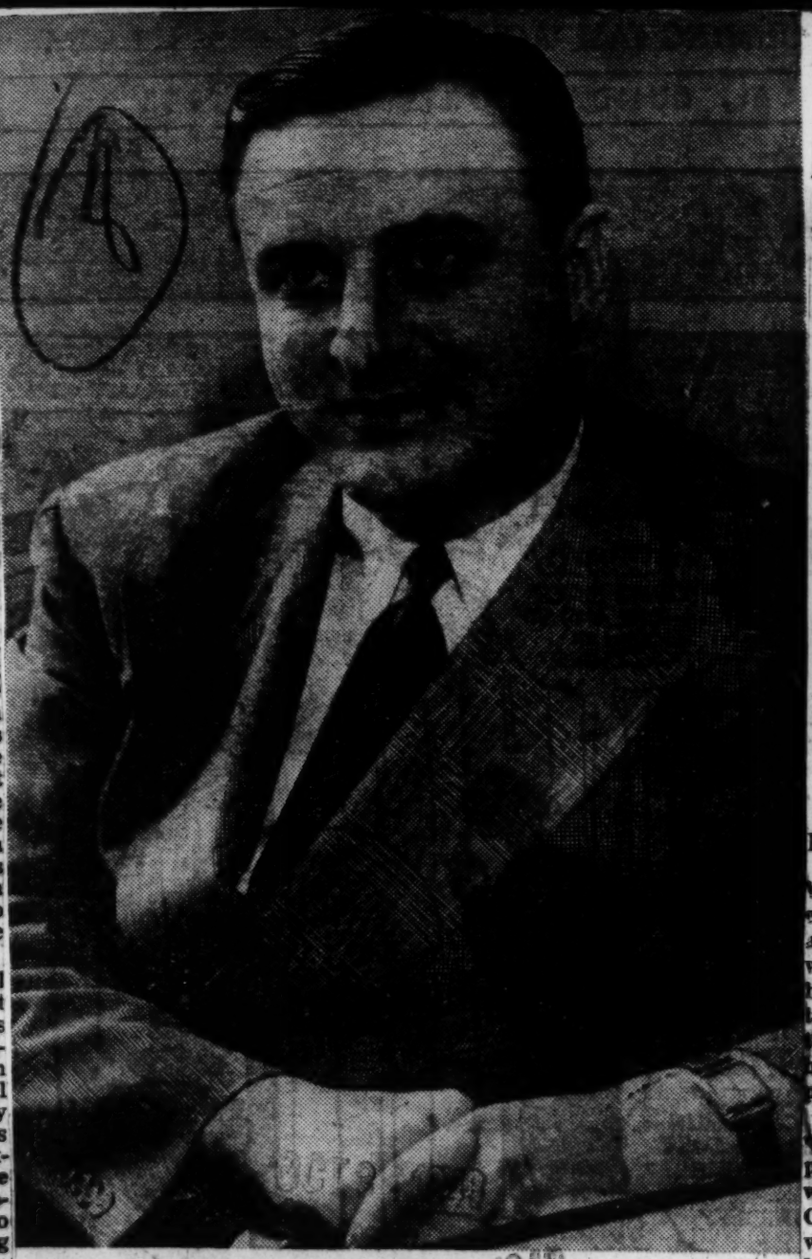
Ben was different. Twelve childhood years in Florida had not rooted him, yet in New York he discovered the difference between black and white. True, there was supposedly no segregation above the Mason and Dixon Line, but from the first jeers of the white children at the white school where his uncle had placed him, through to the more subtle, but nonetheless unfeeling discrimination of grown people, he found that there was no place for him in the world of the white man.

This is not the routine novel concerning the Negro problem. It is not a sociological study. It is rather an individual story of sensitive humanity, of downtrodden people. It is more than a novel about Negroes, it is rather a study of race discrimination. There is nothing repulsive about The Darker Brother. It is a beautiful love story, a chronicle of two young people, Ben and Birdie, struggling to find a place in this world, fighting against countless odds. It is simply, yet powerfully written, and its simplicity frames the undercurrent of pain, bitterness, hopelessness, and beauty.

When Ben, on furlough from the Army, hears of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, his feeling about this being a white man's war fades to be replaced by a dim, distant hope. Even out of the dark, emotional reaction to not being wanted, not even in the Army, he says: "It ain't what they want, baby. It what they got tuh have. We got tuh fight the enemy over there. We got tuh fight for what we got comin to us over here. We been waitin uh long time. We liable tuh get knots beat all over the top uh our heads. We goin tuh get shoved round. But we got tuh keep fightin."

There are some who will avoid this book, because, although it is not ugly and distorted, it does state a problem that is growing more and more apparent both in the North and the South, a problem that must some day be faced and solved. It not only states this problem, it pictures the individuals behind it, the humble, the arrogant, the puzzled, the defiant, and it gives the reasons. The downtrodden, the unhappy, the outcasts of society have a right to be heard.

Bucklin Moon has, in this book, given them a fair hearing. He has made no attempt to rail at society nor does he offer any solution for this race problem; he has only placed it in a sympathetic light, and if his book makes people think sanely and fairly, he has achieved his purpose.—M. D.



HIS FIRST NOVEL—Bucklin Moon, above, has written a first novel, "The Darker Brother." It is a sympathetic study of the position of the Negro in this country. Published by Doubleday, Doran, it is reviewed on this page.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

ISSUE STUDY OF RIOTS

NEW YORK, [illegible] An objective [illegible] of the Detroit race riots of last June 20 written by two Wayne university professors of sociology who began work on the document while [illegible] racial debacle was in process [illegible] published by the Dryden press in New York.

"Too Hot To Handle"

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

DEADERICK F. JENKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. —(SNS)— Author of "It Was Not My World," which depicts social and economic conditions in the South and the locale is in Mississippi where Jenkins formerly lived. The book exposes secret romances between the races in the South.... tells how Negroes are exploited, and bares how politicians seek to rise to power by appeals to prejudice.

So sizzling and daring was the manuscript publishers refused to print the book and Mr. Jenkins, who lives presently at 1464 South Central Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., was forced to have it published at his own expense. Reviews have appeared in leading papers, including the staid New York Times.

BLACK DOSTOEVSKY

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"The White Face" by Carl Ruthven Offord (Robert McBride & Co., N. Y. C., $2.75) is a brilliant first novel by a colored newspaperman from Trinidad. The first chapter is one of the most exciting openings I have ever read. The rest of the book is so full of terror and exciting dread that it can only be compared to such Russian pre-revolutionary writers as "Crime and Punishment" and "The Insulted and Injured" by Feodor Dostoevsky.

Chris and Nella escape peonage in the South by taking their lives in their hands and luckily meeting a friend, who is driver for a Southern doctor and decides he is fed up with his employer and everything in Dixie. He drives them North in the doctor's car. This, naturally, doesn't add to their safety. They reach Harlem without a mishap and abandon the car. Their friend disappears and they are swept into the cold, ruthless current of depression-starved Harlem. Their baby, tenderly loved by both, dies in convulsions brought on by malnutrition. They are without money to bury it. Besides, Chris fears to let his whereabouts be known—so he buries the little corpse in an empty lot. When he noticed "there must be something wrong in Harlem." The mayor accused them of "breaking their 'own' store windows" for no reason at all but lawlessness. Two weeks after the riot, the OPA suspended nine white Harlem butchers for overcharging, on evidence dated before the riot. "White Face" depicts the running sore that is Harlem and every other black ghetto in this democracy.

Josephine Schuyler.

New York, N. Y.

8-1943

Defender
Chicago. Ill

BOOKS

By BEN BURNS

"McSORLEY'S WONDERFUL SALOON" by Joseph Mitchell. Duell, Sloan & Pearce. $2.50.

The Screwball Set

JOSEPH MITCHELL specializes in crackpots. A former Tarheel lad who made good in Father Knickerbocker's town as an unsurpassed collector of pen portraits of the lowly, Mitchell has without doubt collected himself a reputation as "about the best interviewer in the world," as Clifton Fadiman puts it.

For some years now Mitchell's sparkling pieces on the habitues of the Bowery and points thereabouts have been appearing in New Yorker. The worst of these characters — and the worse they are the better — have been collected in "McSorley's Wonderful Saloon," which is the intriguing title of the lead story.

But Mitchell's people (he resents their being called "little people," he says, "They are as big as you are, whoever you are") are a fine lot, no matter what their particular quirk. Queers, yes, but always human, always alive with the vitality of life.

At least two of them are Negro—one the gifted daughter of George Schuyler, well-known newspaper columnist, and the other Wilmoth Houdini, a Harlem Calypso singer from Trinidad.

Philippa Duke Schuyler as child prodigy has perhaps received more than her share of lighting in newspapers and magazines. At nine, she has a mental age of 16, boasts an I.Q. of 185, writes poems for her dolls, and has composed some 60 pieces of music. Her lone qualification for admission to Mitchell's screwball set seems to be the fact that she has been raised wholely on uncooked meats, vegetables and nuts. A special treat of hers is raw sirloin steaks. How she is faring with ration points remains undisclosed though.

Mitchell's sketch of the Schuylers at home is a straight, undiluted picture of home life, unusual as the little Schuyler girl is. Schuyler's wife is a blonde white woman from Texas and Mitchell, though a South Carolinan, seems to treat Phillippa as a good refutation of some of the ridiculous arguments against mixed marriages. He is not arguing the point, just presenting facts.

"Houdini's Picnic" is the simple story of Saturday night at a Harlem party with Calypso songs as a feature. There is much of the social background of the songs with a liberal dose of some of the best. It makes delightful reading, as does virtually every item in the Mitchell collection.

Jefferson and Today

THE PUBLISHED version of Sidney Kingsley's great drama on Thomas Jefferson comes at an opportune moment. Today with victory within our grasp, "The Patriots" has a penetrating lesson in store for those who are already attempting to turn the United Nations from the fine ideals and purposes of the Four Freedoms which were ours during more gloomy days of the war.

For Kingsley's brilliant play is about the turbulent era after the American Revolution when the McCormicks, Wheelers, Bilbos and Connallys of that time tried to distort and turn the republic from the true, genuine democratic spirit of 1776. It was a time when we were close to monarchy, just as today there are those who would put us on the road to fascism, while our men are fighting and dying to conquer the very same fascism.

In that era, as today, there were men like Jefferson who sacrificed their all to make our democracy a living symbol for the world.

"The Patriots" is the stirring story of the bitter clash between Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton — a duel of personalities and principles. Jefferson triumphed finally — won because he felt the pulse of the people and because he refused to compromise on democracy. And in his victory there is an omen of defeat for the still-too-many appeasers who have not learned yet that compromise does not pay.

Kingsley, now in the army, is one of the best playrights in America today. "The Patriots" adds much to his stature. It is not only a thorough chronicle of the post-revolutionary era but always an exciting, tense, absorbing play.

At least one scene shows that both Jefferson's and Washington's sentiments against slavery were clear at the time the Declaration of Independence was written. His servant Jupiter, speaking of Washington, tells him:

"I know he fight for liberty. I remind me you tell me General Washington try to free my people."

When Jefferson replies, "That's right," Jupiter says:

"I like to see my little Sarah free some day. And I remind me how you say we gotta some day open up all that land in the Northwest and ain't gonna be no slaves there. And how we gotta get my people education, and we gotta get them land and tools."

And Jefferson answers: "Some day, Jupiter. It's written in the book of fate. Your people will be free."

Globe & Independent
Nashville. Tenn.

Edwin Embree's New Book Lauds Negro Progress

'Brown Americans' Is Title Of Volume By White Author; Tells Of Race's Strong Support Of Labor Movement

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 21—(ANP)—"Brown Americans" by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald fund, issued Friday by the Viking Press, New York City. It is a newly written statement based to some extent on material used by the same author in "Brown America" which has been a standard work on Negroes since it was published in 1931.

Commenting on the recent progress of Negroes, Mr. Embree says:

"The growth of this race is one of the bright episodes in the history of mankind. In three brief generations it has climbed from the utter dependence of slavery to a high place among the forces of modern civilization. It is now building swiftly on the slowly laid foundations of the earlier decades of freedom.

'Negro literacy has jumped from 5 per cent of slavery days to over 90 per cent—well above the literacy of the whole population of any but the people of a few favored nations. And its education has gone far beyond the rudiments. Nearly 50,000 Negroes are in colleges and universities today, three times as many as when I wrote 12 years ago. During the past six years, 24,000 Negroes have been graduated from college—more than had been graduated during all the previous centuries of the life of this new race in the New World.

"The Negro death rate, while still higher than it need be with modern medicine and sanitation, has been cut in half during the past 50 years and now compares favorably with the rates in such countries as France or Italy.

"Negroes have become a solid part of the labor movement. Their union enrollment is five times that of 12 years ago. While still underemployed and kept for the most part in the lowest posts, their surge into jobs of all sorts during the war emergency has given them new economic footholds, some of which they will certainly keep.

"Migrations have brought one-fourth of the race to the north and west where they have fuller rights and freer opportunities. And this movement is in full flow, will continue to distribute them more equitably throughout the whole country. Their votes in their new homes give them a balance of power in many important states and thus a strong influence in the policies of the nation. Their opinions and demands are now strongly voiced in national associations and in over two hundred of their own newspapers. While the masses in the south still know few of the boons of democracy, the higher standing of the three million northern Negroes is steadily changing attitudes toward the race as a whole.

"The rise of the Brown Americans is a part of the general upsurge of colored peoples the world over. We do not yet see the shift that is taking place. A 'cultural lag' runs throughout human history, a delay between changes and our adaptation to them. That lag is conspicuous and may become tragic in the attitudes the white nations still hold toward the colored peoples. If we persist in our arrogant attempt to rule and exploit all darker groups, they will rise up in a world rebellion that may wipe out white civilization.

"Diverse peoples must learn to live together happily and effectively in this rapidly shrinking world. This means the granting of equitable opportunities; a free exchange of goods and of ideas; the right of diverse peoples to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Amsterdam News
New York. N. Y

About Books

By CONSTANCE H. CURTIS

Info on West Africa

The following review of Letters from West Africans ($2.00, Waverly), edited and published by Anna Melissa Graves, is discussed by Leslie Pinckney Hill, president of Cheyney State Teachers' College.

This comparatively small volume has two values. It might well have been developed into two books, but we must be thankful that Miss Graves has brought together these two distinct contributions.

The first value of this book is in the revelation of the antiquity of that culture which luminous individuals of the Negro race have advanced through the centuries. This culture, compounded of the contributions of leaders of a great racial stock—that of the Negroes of the Soudan—in many fields, is precisely of the kind and quality that has distinguished the history of all the other great peoples. Intuitively we feel that human nature is one, but in a cultural pattern whose very basis is so widely racial prejudice, a need is served in bringing to the attention of our hatred-ridden society the story of so exalted a personage as Akhnaton. In this colored man was a refinement, a sensitivity, a versatility, a broad appreciation, and a facility in self expression, that will rank him forever among the greatest benefactors of mankind. How little we know of him, and how few Negroes, old or young, feel the power of an inheritance. By bringing this man into the light, and building up from him her brief story of the skills, the organization and the unbelievable trials and denials of the African people, Miss Graves very clearly fulfills the task she set for herself, that is, to prove the oneness and identity of our common humanity.

Negro History Withheld

For long generations the exploiting, slave-trading nations kept out of their books the story of the great culture centers of the Soudan built up at Melle, Jenne, Timbuctoo and Goa, of Sonni Ali's Songhay empire, of the black university at Timbuctoo and of Abou Behr, the saint and scholar. Business, invention, art, war, history, philosophy, government, religion, poetry—all these and more Miss Graves conjures back to our remembrance as a rich inheritance, glorious in the history of the Negro. It is a story that should be known to all those who think the Negro has no history but that of slavery.

The second value of this book is in the letters from native Africans, faithfully reproduced as responses to letters, which unfortunately we are not privileged to see, written by Miss Graves herself. Here is direct insight into the spiritual struggles of African leaders. Striving, escape, achievement, defeat, all these are common to every purposeful human being whatever his race, color or geographical location. The African surely is no exception. What a revelation of inward conflict, purpose, determination and will power the letters of Mrs. Casely-Hayford set out, and who could read without warm response that record of the baffled spirit and unfulfilled ambition of her gifted artist daughter, Gladys.

A Bitter Plight

In Mr. Kisseadoo and Mr. Yudu-

FROM SUPERMAN TO MAN. By J. Alvarez. 128 pp. J. Messners. Research Historical Avenue. New York City $1.50

BY TED STANFORD

SEX AND RACE, Volume 1,

Philadelphia, Pa
Tribune

BOOK REVIEW

The Old World. By J. A. Rogers. 301 *p. m. Profusely Illustrated. J. A. Rogers Historical Researches. 37 Morningside Avenue. New York* $3.00

SEX AND RACE, Volume II. The New World. By J. A. Rogers. 409 *pp. Lavishly Illustrated. J. A. Rogers Historical Researches. 37 Morningside Avenue. New York York.* $3.50.

(Continued from last week)

How do these contrast manifest themselves today?

There must be considered, at the outset, the emergence of a first-rate colored world power.

STANFORD

At the time that J. A. Rogers published his first edition of FROM SUPERMAN TO MAN, this was still a white man's world. That fact was indisputable. The mailed fist of the Caucasian imperialist dominated all of Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the islands of the Pacific. It controlled all of Asia, with the conditional exception of Japan. The national sovereignty of Japan, itself, was circumscribed by the economic, political, and social controls of Western Capital. Everywhere around the earth the colored man despised his white-skinned overlord, but for the most part swallowed his anger in silence. Wherever he went, the white man kicked, cuffed, and bludgeoned the colored man into submission. That was his privilege. The white man stood ready to defend that privilege by force of arms. Let those wishful-thinking Negroes such as J. A. Rogers scurry around the world gathering facts. Let them write their miserable little books, such as FROM SUPERMAN TO MAN, attempting to prove that the colored people were the natural equals of the Caucasian. Silly, wasn't it? Everyone knew that Negroes and the rest of the colored peoples were inferior to the great white race. Everybody knew that this was the white man's world.

Then, on December 7, 1941 (twenty-four years after J. A. Rogers had published his first edition of FROM SUPERMAN TO MAN, and a little more than a year after he had begun to distribute the first copies of Volume One, of SEX AND RACE) units of the Imperial Japanese armed forces attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In a matter of hours, the little men of Nippon had destroyed the flower of the United States' fleet. In the course of the next few months, Hirohito's armies had established a huge and fabulously rich empire in southeastern Asia, and his navies dominated half of the South Pacific. For the first time in centuries, the Caucasian world stood face to face with a first-rate colored power.

The tremendous fact of the Nipponese emergence served immediately to highlight, to stimulate, and to give new incentive to certain profound tides which had been gathering momentum in the breasts of hundreds of millions of colored folk throughout the world.

Perhaps its most immediate effect was to crystallize, in the minds of the colored masses, an almost complete loss of respect for Caucasian world leadership. The colored man had long lost all but an outward show of admiration for the white man's home, his religion, and his law. There persisted, only, a contemptuous respect for the white man's eagerness and ability to exercise superior brute force. Now, not even that remained. A colored people had taken the white man's own weapons and had soundly thrashed him in fair combat. Sweet day. The dark-skinned masses felt a precious flame take courage in their breasts. They turned a bolder gaze upon the Caucasian's house of cards, and saw how utterly loathesome it had become.

Out of the long hard years that lay between the Second and the First World War, a new generation of colored peoples had been shaped; a generation which grew to a fuller knowledge of that fundamental unity which has cupped all of the darker peoples together in the harsh palm of a common destiny. The Indian, fasting with Gandhi, and imprisoned with Nehru; the Chinese, struggling towards independent democratic nationhood under Sun Yat Sen and Chiang Kai-Shek; the West Coast and the Cape African, fighting for the minimum rights of economic and political expression; the black men of the Caribbean countries and the United States, pressing their demands for full social, political, and economic integration into the life of the Americas—all of these peoples had felt this broadening oneness of color against the progressive tryranny of a colonialistic world. The commonness of their oppression, the sharpening practices of the white philosophy of racism, all demonstrated to the colored peoples the essential necessity of unity—if they were to survive.

Throughout this time, there flowered among the colored peoples a fixed determination to struggle for the creation of a more equitably ordered world; a world in which the darker masses might take upon themselves the ful responsibilities and prerogatives of leadership.

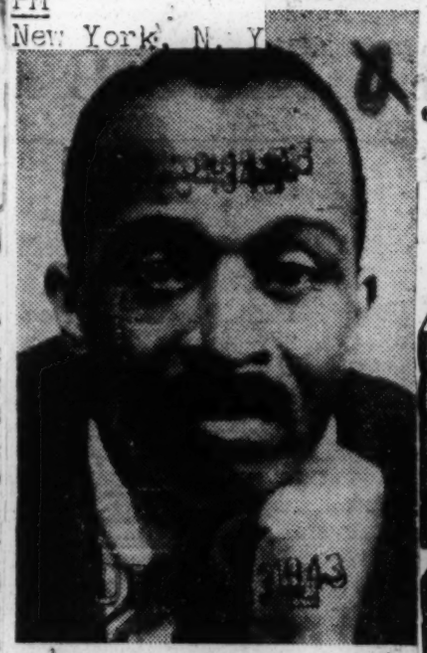
This determination was prewhelmingly humanitarian. It sought no preference for race or color. It sought to obliterate that preference which rested upon race and color. It sought to guarantee the absence of such preference by elevating the colored masses upon an equal social, political, and economic footing with the rest of mankind.

This determination was preponderantly democratic. With the solitary exception of Japan, it spurned the base lures of tyranny. It was a movement of, and by, and for the common man. Nippon lost a full half of the moral value of its cause, by the simple reason that it triumph stemmed from out a fascist State. A fascist Japan, even though it conquered all of the fascist and semi-fascist Caucasian world, could not find favor in the eyes of the colored masses. The ways of Fascism do not alter with the color of the Fascist's skin. The whole while the dark-skinned masses rejoiced to see the citadels of caucasian tyranny brought low, they sorrowed that the hands which conquered were not clean. The world movement of the colored masses upward into freedom is fundamentally democratic. It cries for a singleness of justice and equality broad enough to embrace all men. It will not tolerate less.

This, then is the world of contrasts and comparisons; of the old decay and the new rooting; of the familiar terror and the blossoming hope, into which the black historian, Rogers, introduced the twin volumes of SEX AND RACE. Having examined these things, we shall hope to grasp a fuller understanding of the historians' plea for interracial sanity.

Book Prize Winner

Pittsburgh Courier
New York, N. Y.



J. Saunders Redding, professor of English at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., has been awarded the North Carolina Mayflower Society cup for the best book written by a resident North Carolinian. Redding's *No Day of Triumph*, a study of Negro social and economic problems of the South, was one of 21 volumes eligible for the 1943 award.

BLACK DOSTOEVSKY

"The White Face" by Carl Ruthven Offord (Robert McBride & Co., N. Y. C., $2.75) is a brilliant first novel by a colored newspaperman from Trinidad. The first page is one of the most exciting openings I have ever read. The rest of the book is so full of terror and exciting dread that it can only be compared to such Russian pre-revolutionary writings as "Crime and Punishment" and "The Insulted and Injured" by Feodor Dostoevsky.

Chris and Nella escape peonage in the South by taking their lives in their hands and luckily meeting a friend, who is driver for a Southern doctor and decides he is fed up with his employer and everything in Dixie. He drives them North in the doctor's car. Naturally, doesn't add to their safety. They reach Harlem without mishap and abandon the car. Their friend disappears and they are soon discovers the Bronx "slave-market" and hastens there each morning with other colored women to hire herself to the highest bidder. She finds pious Jewish housewives not above turning back the clock to keep from paying the paltry wages they have promised.

All of this and more builds a fierce resentment in Chris. No wonder he listens to the soap boxers on the street corners, who picture a better world for him. "White Face" will give you a better understanding of the recent Harlem riot. Suddenly, all of the world noticed "there must be something wrong in Harlem." The mayor accused them of "breaking their 'own' windows" for no reason at all but lawlessness. Two weeks after the riot, the OPA suspended the Harlem butchers for "breaking their 'own' overcharging sore that is Harlem and every other black ghetto in this democracy.

Josephine Schuyler.
New York, N. Y.

8-1943 (Carver)

George Washington Carver: An American Biography

APR 1943

Book of the Month Club News

By RACKHAM HOLT

Price $3.50

APR 1943

IF you long for a change—and who of us does not—from true, all-too-true stories of the psychological damage done to tender young hearts and souls by ill-advised although devoted parents, by too much harshness from the older generation, by too much indulgence, by teachers who do not understand child-nature, by schools which do not provide the right food for young minds, here is the book for you. As a biography it is no more than a good competent piece of writing. The story it tells is magical. It will give you faith in the reassuringly tough vitality of young human beings — this moving, simple, exalting story of a frail little colored boy to whom no brooding protection was offered from the time he set out, all alone in the big world, "smaller than his theoretical ten years," to find his way into maturity. He earned his living from that time on, precariously, always uncertainly; he groped his own way towards the education needed by his rare gifts of brain and personality. He endured great physical, and yet greater psychological hardships. And so sweet-tempered and sunny and selfless was his personality, and so creatively active his brain, that he passed over this perpetually stony, narrow steep road straight to the finest kind of fame, success, fulfilled usefulness to his fellowmen, and steadfast inner security. His is one of the most remarkable lives in all the rich variety of our nation's history. There is no American who would not be the better for reading it.

DOROTHY CANFIELD

APR 1943

APR 1943

Biography Of Dr. George W. Carver Gets Warm Reception

APR 10 1943

APR 10 1943

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, An American Biography, by Raskham Holt. Illustrated. 335 pp. New York; Doubleday, Doran and Co., $3.50.

Few biographical volumes within recent years have excited the admiration of the public or been received with a more genuine warmth than this story of the life of Tuskegee's late world renowned scientist which has just been released. And although the author spent three years in preparation of the volume, its appearance could not have been better timed had she known in advance that Dr. Carver's unparalleled career would have been ended by death last January.

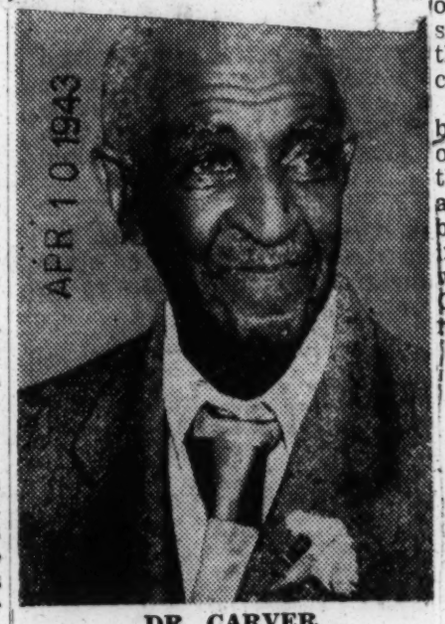
Reviewers have been lavish in their praise of the merits of the book both as a biography and as a source of inspiration to ambitious youth everywhere. Its shortcomings, if any, lie in the fact that, while it tells the story of Dr. Carver's life very well indeed, it does not tell it adequately enough. APR 10 1943

As one reviewer phrased it: "If Mrs. Holt's book, sections of which have been brought out in the Atlantic Monthly and The Saturday Evening Post, has shortcomings, we may as well blame its minor lacks on the difficulties of a pioneer work in a field that may have very broad implications.

SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION

"We should like to have been given a more general evaluation of Dr. Carver's thought, of his markedly Deweyan sense of process in science, and perhaps some hint of the effects of his example on ecology and regional planning. As it stands we have a good book about an American who deserved well of us." APR 10 1943

Or this view by another reviewer: "It is a record of a great and noble gentleman. Dr. Carver should be an inspiration to his people in all the years to come. His life should silence forever the white man's blatant contention that the Negro is incapable of holding his own in the intellectual and creative activities . . . . You will find Mrs. Holt's book of great interest because Dr. Carver himself as a man and worker had an irresistible appeal. But the biography worthy of the man is still to be written. APR 10 1943



APR 10 1943

DR. CARVER

But in fairness to the author it should be said that because of the nature of the work, similar criticism might easily be levelled at any biographical volume. It is far more preferable to look upon this very worthy work as an inspiration to all persons, black and white, rich in its story of a fine human being, and packed with much information on Tuskegee Institute and upon that critical era in the development of the Negro from Reconstruction days to the post-war period.

From the intricate details of an exalting personality Mrs. Holt has woven an equally exalting story. Her terial of intrinsic sociological value, which under ordinary circumstances, demands prodigious effort and more than a passing interest in the subject, approaches the fascinating qualities of a great novel in its ability to captivate and sustain the interest of the reader. APR 10 1943

Within the pages of this volume Mrs. Holt has preserved for posterity much of the truth concerning George Washington Carver, as a man, as a scientist, and as a philosopher with deep religious convictions. Indeed, she might well qualify as an authority on the life of this remarkable man. APR 10 1943

The life of the great scientist is unfolded almost in the pattern of another American success story. But "like Edison and Ford, Carver came from nowhere to benefit all mankind by the fruits of his handiwork, but unlike Edison and Ford, he could not enjoy the fullness of American life because he was a black man.

"However, the great truth to be learned from this book is that of Dr. Carver's perseverances in the face of adversities, hiss tolerance even while being oppressed by bigots, and his unerring faith in God. This is a book for the working masses, of which Dr. Carver never relinquished his right to belong."

To say the least, Mrs. Holt's intelligent understanding is reflected in the sympathetic manner in which she approaches her subject. Nor is this treatment marred by fatuous indulgence which is just another form of condescension. APR 10 1943

In all, the story of Dr. Carver's life and work is one of the most refreshing and attractive biographies of the season and is assured of a warm welcome from book lovers everywhere irrespective of their racial origin.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., TIMES
Circ. D. 50,436 S. 71,312

JUN 27 1943

Southern Scientist

George Washington Carver. By Rackham Holt. 335 pages. New York City: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc. $3.50.

The name of George Washington Carver is synonymous for many with development of the southern peanut. Others associate this name with the discovery of a multitude of uses for the sweet potato. Still others know of this man as head of Tuskegee Institute for Negroes at Tuskegee, Ala.

While Dr. Carver's work at Tuskegee and his tireless efforts for improving southern agriculture and developing more uses for southern crops are well known, a fact not so well known is that he was an eminent agricultural scientist before he ever came to the South. In fact, as Mrs. Holt, the author of this biography relates, Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee, was informed by a large fertilizer company from which he had sought donations of fertilizer for an experiment at the school:

"We are very sorry, but we feel that there is only one man capable of conducting the experiment which you describe and that man is George Washington Carver, of Iowa Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa."

Washington was very pleased to inform the company that Dr. Carver was now director and instructor in scientific agriculture and dairy science at Tuskegee." got the fertilizer.

orphaned slave child in Missouri, George Carver rose to a position of eminence in the world of science, although in early life his first love was art. In 1941 the University of Rochester conferred a doctor of science, degree upon this widely-loved Negro and the citation gave him "the honor "is now known as the scientist, educator, benefactor in human ability, because you have helped thousands of young people and America. . . .

From an obscure beginning as a

American tradition. True to the American tradition sands of men acquire new contrition came slowly in the dence. . . I confer upon you this men, but, when it degree."

The first great honor to come er scorned it nor by it. . . . Because to Dr. Carver was recognition in new doors of op-1916 by the Royal Society of England. Americans who land, which elected him to a fellgroes, because you lowship. This biography of the demonstrated that kindly Negro scientist—who was here is no color described by Will Rogers as "the have helped thou-only man I know who can sing

enor and talk at the same time"—will take its place among the biographies of great Americans. Mrs. Holt, the author, has ghostwritten several other best sellers and comes into her own with this book. Dr. Carver, who died Jan. 5, 1943, before the book was finished, had expressed a hope that it would "help make others of his race better understood by white men who seldom look beyond the color of their skins to the living human being."

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER by Rackham Holt (Doubleday Doran, $3.50) will be wonderfully inspiring to all young Americans. Afro-American youth especially need to read about great men of African ancestry because they have been told so many lies about their mythical inferiority. This book puts to shame such lies. If Dr. Carver was not among the most brilliant scientists who ever lived in his final achievements, it was solely due to lack of opportunity. In spite of all the obstacles of prejudice and poverty, he became one of the most useful scientists ever born, while in character no other can hold a candle to him. Here was a true "Man of God," a creator of good things, taking the waste and cast-off and giving it new form and greater usefulness.

It is fine for the Negro and for America that Dr. Carver was exactly as he was, seeking no profit but only goodness. A miracle maker of Christ-like proportions who brought blessings and greater abundance to a land that has robbed and reviled his people. He fulfilled not only a scientific but a moral mission.

Had he been a DuPont making munitions for the destruction of mankind, he would have gained far more wealth and power, but he would have lacked the honor that is especially his and the glory that is like a halo about his head.

HEALER OF PLANTS

Even as a lad he was called "the Plant Doctor" because he nursed ailing plants back to health by feeding them sun and water. Tenderly he would clean their roots and change their soil and care for them as for children. The white Carvers who reared this unusual lad were themselves fine folk of German stock and was more like a father to them than just an ex-slave or hired hand. Thus the good one does lives after one and, in this case, multiplied a thousandfold.

APR 24 1943

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
George Washington Carver, An American Biography
By Rackham Holt
April 9, 1943

CARVER, THE WORKING MAN
Neil Scott

Mrs. Holt has woven from the intricate details of an exhalting personality, an equally exhalting story. Her delicate treatment of material of intrinsic sociological value, which usually demands prodigious effort and great interest in the subject, approaches the fascinating qualities of a great novel in its ability to captivate and sustain the interest of the reader. She has imprisoned within the pages of a book for posterity the truth concerning George Washington Carver, philosophically, scientifically as a man. Nor by does the writer convince only that she is an authority on the life of Carver, but her use of important phrases from the spirituals for chapter title would lead one to believe that she is familiar with Negro music.

Dr. Carver, as Mrs. Holt so vividly pictures him, is another great American success story. Like Edison and Ford, Carver came from nowhere to benefit all mankind by the fruits of his handiwork, but unlike Edison and Ford, he could not enjoy the fullness of American life because he was a black man. However, the great perseverance in the face of adversities; his tolerance even while being oppressed by bigots, and his unerring faith in God. This is a book for the working masses, of which Carver never relinquished his right to belong.

DR. CARVER THE TEACHER
By Roy Wilkins

To this reviewer, that is the great theme of this book:

Carver the Teacher. He did invaluable work for the youth as a whole. Unquestionably, he benefitted great industries, notably the peanut industry, by far his greatest work was the transmission of his full knowledge to the ones who needed it most.

Great honors came to him. Great monetary rewards were offered him, all of which he refused. Throughout his life he was an humble and practical Christian and of the greatest puzzles to him was that man could be so selfish and as the biographer says, so "ugly" in his relations with other men. Carver was confused, bewildered and hurt by the outside world and as the years passed, he withdrew more and more into his laboratory and living quarters at Tuskegee. He was content to serve mankind, taking little for himself. As one turns the pages of this revealing biography, watching the fascinating story unroll, it seems incredible that a person of this simplicity and humility, with a creed of love and concern for the welfare of his fellowman could have lived and followed in the cold, hard twentieth century.

This book is an inspiration to all the development of the Negro from

As Carver Author Signs Autograph

Apr. 19, 1943

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

LEFT TO RIGHT, ARNA BONTEMPS, ELLEN TARRY, Langston Hughes and Clara Classen, one of the editors of Doubleday Doran, watching Rackham Holt, seated, autograph her biography of George Washington Carver in Frances Kraft Reckling's book and music shop at 210 W. 125th St., during the special exhibit of books on the Negro. The exhibit was opened March 19 by Dr. L. D. Reddick, curator of the Schomberg Collection. Paintings and sculpture by modern Negro artists as well as autographed copies of books are on view. Among the items of special interest are Ol Harrington's original sketches of Miss Tarry's book, "Hezekiah Horton."

Reconstruction days to the post world war period. Mrs. Holt, who spent three years working on the volume, has caught the spirit of Carver and the picture of this era in a manner that cannot help but satisfy readers.

GEORGT WASHINGTON CARVER, AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

April 9, 1943

By Rackham Holt

Reviewed by A. R. Morehouse—Yale University

George W. Carver was one of the great spirits of our age. To him in search of an education, it was once said: "We don't take niggers here." And yet, "his knowledgeable hands could make lace copying the intricate designs of spiderwebbs." His creative mind make discoveries that revolutionized agriculture: he was a pioneer of dehydration and chemurgy; his gifts and charm make him the friend of Henry Ford, Henry Wallace, Thomas Edison and Franklin D. Roosevelt. And his spiritual insight made him see that in his laboratory, he was the instrument and servant of God, through whom he thought and for whose children, black and white, he could do more, if his prayers were mixed with his labors. He recalls the Saint of whom Thomas O'Kempes wrote, "the more he was undistracted and inwardly simple, so much the more was he able to enter into profound subject for his mind was enlightened from above." The race of man is immeasurably enriched by what George Carver was and by what he did by virtue of the light within him.

Book News And Reviews

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia
JUN 8 1943

By ANNIE L. McPHEETERS

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER: AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY. — By Rackham Holt.

Already Rackham Holt's biography of George Washington Carver has become immensely popular. This popularity, it owes to the author's subject, his genius, patience ,and faith in God.

The book is written in a simple, clear-cut style, which fascinatingly leads the reader form one incident to another, and is lacking in the stiff and stilted style which characterized earlier biographical works.

Although the book has been criticized for its lack of the industrial results of this one man's achievements, it is widely acclaimed as a beautiful and intimate portrayal of the life of a great genius.

Dr. Carver's life, as you know, from the time he was Carver's George to George Carver, was full of incidents, big and small, and his accomplishments so wonderful, that even to those who know his story well—this book still makes good and interesting reading.

Briefly the saga runs — born to slavery, he was kidnapped and never saw his mother again. His childhood was filled with wanderings from one place to another, but he was always absorbing, seeking and learning. Always finding time to commune with nature and God, he developed an understanding of those things which put him far above the common herd.

When financial difficulties made it impossible to attain more education, his superior and diverse talents created other riches for him until he finally set his feet on the desired path again.

For two years after graduation he was kept on the faculty of the Iowa State College of Agriculture, from whence he came to Tuskegee Institute, to remain there until his death in 1942.

Many attractive offers were made to him, and many honors conferred upon him, but he preferred his work at Tuskegee, and he carried his honors modestly. He never charged for information, and felt that it was his to give, and when "distinctions were piling up like a snowball . . . he accepted them graciously and went back to work again."

"When we began work on the book," writes the author, "more than three years ago it had not seemed important to him . . . but at last it came clear to him that if these matters (meaning the "fairy tales" people wrote of his life) were put down accurately and truthfully JUN 8 1943 he would be rendering yet another service which it was in his power to make."

For further reading, see SAINT, SEER AND SCIENTIST, by J. H. Hunter, THE MAN WHO TALKS WITH THE FLOWERS by Glenn Clark, and FROM CAPTIVITY TO FAME. by R. H. Merritt.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

A Great American Lives in Story Of George Washington Carver

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER: An American Biography. By Rackham Holt. Doubleday, Doran and Co. $3.50.

Mrs. Holt's subtitle for the story of George Washington Carver — An American Biography," seems to me well chosen, for certainly Dr. Carver transcended all limitations placed upon his race, and transcended the isolation and indignities shoved in the face of every Negro American, to become an eminent scientists and the finest type of American.

The book carries Dr. Carver from the time when, as a small, frail baby, he was handed back to his mother's master with these words: "Guess it's alive yet," to the day when his body, still slight and frail, was carried to rest beside his close friend, Booker T. Washington, in view of their beloved Tuskegee.

Dr. Carver's life paralleled that of his friend, Dr. Washington, in many particulars. There was the same intense desire for knowledge, the same patience and fortitude and the same quiet faith in the characters of the two.

First Schooling

In the chapter, "Young Lambs Must Find a Way," the description of Dr. Carver's first attempt to go to school is reminiscent of Booker T. Washington's first journey toward education as related in "Up From Slavery," his classic biography. The roads they traveled were similar and the final attainment of goals, crowned with deserved honor and renown, also were analgous.

The child, George Carver, lost his mother as an infant, but her place was taken by several good women in the course of his youth. One of these was Mariah Watkins, a kind, capable woman, who taught him thrift, industry, and self-reliance. He received his first Bible from her, and near the end of his life, when he was almost 80, he was still reading the Testament given him by "Aunt Mariah."

George Carver disliked his first school teacher because he felt that this man, Stephen Frost, was ashamed of being a Negro. George Washington Carver was never ashamed of his race, and he naturally looked with disdain upon anyone who was. He added the Washington to his name in order not to be identified with a white man bearing the same name. As Mrs. Holt writes:

Carver Independent

He didn't want to be somebody else, he didn't want to change in any way. He simply wanted to be what he was. He wanted the opportunity to develop along lines ordained by his nature." This desire was not daunted when, attempting to enter his first college, Highland university, he was told: "We don't take niggers here."

His orphaned state had advantages. Since he had nobody to look after him, he learned to depend upon himself. Along the tortuous way he was forced to follow in his ascent to greatness, he learned that self pity is a destructive element, and that were he able to stand the blows they would help to develop him, and he would make progress. His biographer says: "In the process, his independence flourished."

A Great Man

Much of the book is devoted to Dr. Carver's development as a great man, the remainder to the better known saga of his development as a scientist, and how his scientific offerings enriched American life. Vividly portraying this man for the ages, Mrs. Holt's work immortalizes Dr. Carver as he merits.

It, is written with love and understanding, and this story of a man born a slave, but who died a fellow of the oldest scientific organization in Great Britain, the Royal Society, which selects its foreign members from among men of the greatest scientific eminence, deserves a place in the heart of every American.—Hazel Reed.

JUL 23 1943

JUL 23 1943

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Nicholas Panesis' lithograph illustrating "George Washington Carver. The book is reviewed by Fanny Butcher on this page.

A Great Biography of a Great American: George W. Carver

APR 4 1943 APR 4 1943

"GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER," by Rackham Holt. [Doubleday, Doran, $3.50.]

Chicago Tribune APR 4 1943
Chicago, Illinois by Fanny Butcher.

This moving life of a boy whose mother was a slave, who lived to be called "the greatest American scientist," fulfills the promise of its subtitle, "An American Biography." It is a thrilling reiteration of the inherent national strength and of the fertility of the soil of freedom that such a boy should have been able to bring freedom of life and of the spirit to those with white skins as well as black.

Many readers will find in this record of a truly noble life a bitter indictment of the treatment of Negroes by their white fellow citizens. And they will of necessity be deeply moved by the difficulties which this great man encountered when he went outside the happy quietude of Tuskegee to bring his message to all men. "Such simple questions as where one is to eat or sleep which present themselves to most travelers were knotty subjects to him in the southern states where a Negro's right to comforts and conveniences was not recognized," the author says, and she describes the bitter difficulties of mere eating and sleeping for a lecturer whose skin is black.

But many more readers will find in George W. Carver's life the sublimation of the best American spirit, regardless of color or race, as if somehow, from the very soil of our great middle west its children drew the urge to creative freedom.

George Carver was orphaned as a baby. His mother, a slave, was stolen, carrying him in her arms, by one of the raiding hordes from Arkansas, and her owner, Moses Carver, was strung up by his thumbs. The baby was found, tho the mother never was. Little George grew up, with his brother, Jim, who was two years older, in the stern but tender care of the Carvers of Diamond Grove, Mo., and the first time little George looked full upon a grown Negro he ran home in terror, for his brother's was the only black face he had ever seen.

There was one ungovernable passion in that little black boy's heart —it moved him his whole life long— and that was the passion to know, to understand why. To be able to learn he did any kind of service, wandered about over the fields and thru the towns of the middle west, adding to his tiny store of opportunities, finally, and, after many heart breaking adventures, finding himself in Simpson college, Iowa.

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His lot as a child and thru his college years, it will seem to many readers, was more saddened by the fact that he was homeless and alone than by his color, for at Simpson he was treated like the boy of talent that he was—only at that time he expected to be a painter, altho he loved flowers and all growing things and already had a remarkable "green hand."

Later at Ames he rose to be a captain in the school military corps and was one of the most popular members of the school with both the professors and his college mates. His career as an agriculturist was assured there, and it was with the deepest regret that Ames parted with him when he went to Tuskegee, where he spent 40 years of historic service to mankind—the white as well as the black race.

APR 4 1943

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Readers will find in these pages the story of a really great, a really dedicated man, a man who never accepted the rewards of greatness, but never shirked its responsibilities. Fame and money for himself he neither worked for nor took when they were offered him. In his work for his fellow men he had the richest reward which any man can have—the happiness of knowing that the world is a better place for his having been in it.

Dr. Carver could heal sick plants, sick animals, sick souls. He was often called a creative chemist or a creative botanist. What this book proves him to have been is a true creative Christian.

Rackham Holt tells his inspiring story in a straightforward, simple style—in, one feels, an echo of the simplicity in which it was told to her by Dr. Carver himself during the long weeks that she often spent at Tuskegee and during the three years which the book took in the writing. His story is also inevitably the story of the ihstitute and of his and Booker T. Washington's magnificent battle there to give their people a good life. Dr. Carver finally saw his work bring more happiness, greater physical and economic strength, and freedom not only to Tuskegee but to the whole south.

Rackham Holt may be a new name to readers of biography, but to those of us in the business she is known as the real [altho ghost] author of one of the most popular American biographies ever written —Dr. Victor Heiser's "An American Doctor's Odyssey"—as well as of the less known but excellently done autobiography of John Hays Hammond.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

The First Reader

By HARRY HANSEN APR 2 - 1943

George Washington Carver Biography Brilliant Story of an American Career That Rose from Nonentity to Genius

George Washington Carver wanted to hold in his hand a certain book that any of us can buy today. But he could not wait for it. He was too tired; had put in a lifetime finding out things about plants and soil for the good of all the people, and he died. The book is **George Washington Carver: An American Biography,** by Rackham Holt, whose real name is Margaret and who was the wife of the late Guy Holt. (Doubleday, Doran, $3.50.) Many months she sat by the side of this extraordinary American, walked with him under the trees of Tuskegee, read his note-books, heard the stories of his struggles. Bringing that life into a book was a task that called for no mean writing talent. Discarding the cold report for a warm, impressionistic record Rackham Holt has written a brilliant story of an American career, a book every bit the equal of Eve Curie's **Madame Curie.**

She understands the dogged persistence that made this man's gift practical. "A natural genius, Mother Necessity and an unflagging grind" were the ingredients of his success with soil and plants and teaching others to make things grow. He came from nowhere, out of nothing, a forlorn waif in a land ransacked by Civil War troops and intolerant vigilantes, and his disability on the Missouri border-line between North and "Sesech" was his color. But he had a green thumb. From earliest boyhood he could make things grow. He asked how things happened in nature, and he was so close to the soil that when nature spoke he heard what it said.

• • • APR 2 - 1943

A Coming Scientist Grows Up.

George Washington Carver started at the lowest rung of the human ladder; he didn't even have a name. Of course, he had a mother, a girl named Mary, who had been bought for $700 from a neighbor by Moses Carver, who "didn't believe in slavery" but needed help on his claim. The raiders took Mary and the baby, and the baby came back—but not Mary. The baby was Carver's George, and he became known as the plant doctor, for he went from house to house in Diamond Grove, Mo., prescribing for ailing plants, and he fell asleep sometimes with bits of flowers and grass in his hands.

Then he became George Carver, and finally, in Minneapolis, Kan., he got confused with another man of that name, and he put a W. in the middle of his. "What does that stand for—Washington?" they asked, and he said he guessed it did. And there you have the beginning of an American name, one that they will carve on monuments. Could anything be simpler or more natural?

Rackham Holt reveals this story as an adventure, and such it was. There was drudgery in it; there was horror in it, too, as when he saw the enraged mob in Fort Scott, Kan., beat out the brains of a young Negro. There was also that American way of pushing the Negro lad back, closing doors to him. Even at Simpson College, in Indianola, Iowa, which gets national attention today because it sheltered young George, 300 students at first turned their backs on him.

APR 2 - 1943

"He had only a satchel full of poverty and a social timidity resulting from a constant struggle with poor health, a falsetto voice. . . ." He ran a laundry. Some people were kind, and some students recognized his superior quality. He could paint, and also to the same strangely enough, what he painted best was flowers. And when an instructor asked about the reign of Queen Anne "the spreading flower of Queen Anne's lace (dactus carota) drifted delicate and white across his mental vision."

For Carver could not argue racial freedom on platforms; he left that to Booker T. Washington. He could exemplify working for mutual advantages and co-operation for the mutual good. He desired to lift up not merely his own people but all people. Therein lay the greatness of the man Carver.

APR 2 - 1943

He would go to his laboratory at 3 in the morning, lock himself in and begin his experiments. He was a tall, lean man, leaning over

That Creative Mind Working.

This biography performs an extraordinary service. It shows not merely a man applying himself and succeeding (many biographies do that), but it shows a spirit of humility before God that belongs

in an abstracted kind of way, a man with "a restless, groping spirit seeking light." For Mrs. Holt he is the creative mind working, but he did not consider himself the sole, original genius of plant embryology and agronomy. "He saw the development of man falling into three stages—finding, adapting, creating." He published the results of countless experiments. Some were immediately valuable commercially. From the peanut he found milk that saved the lives of calves in the Belgian Congo.

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Carver Shows the Representatives.

APR 2 - 1943

The extent of the discoveries mentioned by Mrs. Holt is incredible. They ran from paper made of peanut skin to bentonite, useful for de-inking newspapers. Mrs. Holt shows how Carver found them and publicized them. He literally demonstrated the word of the Lord in Isaiah that, "All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field." One of the most diverting and illuminating episodes in this book describes Carver's appearance before the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. He told them about the many products that come out of peanuts, and one member asked:

"Do you make all those products yourself?"

"Yes. That's what a research laboratory is for."

"Haven't you done something with sweet potatoes?"

"One hundred and seven to date . . . but I haven't finished working on them yet."

This book has a lesson for us. It teaches that the earth reveals its secrets to those who love it and know how to use it. It gives its plenty without regard for their color, their religion, their place of birth. It rewards hard work with the satisfaction of having been useful. And what was it the Lord said about the meek?

From Kidnaped Baby to Great Scientist and Great Man

Globe Boston, Mass.

George Washington Carver, by Rackham Holt: Doubleday Doran & Co., $3.50.

George Washington Carver, who died in January of this year, has taken his rightful place among other leaders of mankind. To get a real understanding of all that he accomplished, not only for his own race but the whites as well, Rackham Holt's splendid biography of his life should be read by everyone.

Slavery was abolished in the state of Missouri in 1865, but up to that time jungle law prevailed, and one night Mary and her baby son George, slaves of Moses Carver, were kidnaped by a marauding gang. Mary was never found, but the baby was finally returned to his owner. During the years that George lived with the Carvers he was happy, but his burning desire for an education made him give up the security of their home.

He then moved to the next village, where he went to school now and then for three years. During this time he lived with a very kind negress who taught him cooking, sewing and laundering. He had already learned to cherish plants of all descriptions. When he realized that he had received as much as he could from the small school that he attended, he went on from town to town doing odd jobs and getting a small amount of schooling. Since he was an orphan he had learned to depend on himself. He also knew that self-pity was a destructive force, and he must be able to stand the blows that would develop his character. 4-15-43

By the time he was 19, George, who had taken the name of Carver, was running a laundry business in a small town in Kansas. He was doing very well but his mind was set on college. When he had saved a considerable amount of money he sent in his application for entrance to a small university near by. He was accepted but on opening day was refused admittance because he was a negro. 4-15-43

After several years he ended up at a small college in Iowa studying painting. From there he went on to Iowa State College of Agriculture. When George graduated he was recognized as an authority on agriculture. Several universities offered him position, and he finally accepted that of Professor of Agriculture at Tuskagee at a salary of $1500. He was paid that amount up to the time of his death.

George Washington Carver will probably be best remembered by two achievenments: what he accomplished with the sweet potato and the common peanut. From the sweet potato he concocted a breakfast food, a delicacy which tasted like ginger and a special flour which was used extensively during World War I. The peanut gave him among other things paper, polish, bleach, shampoo and even milk.

Rackham Holt's book is a great biography of a great man who dedicated his life not only to the improvement of his own race but to the white race as well.

LORET C. HAWKINS

Bee
Chicago, Ill.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

APR 1 1 1943

APR 1 1 1943

AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY
By RACKHAM HOLT
CARVER, THE WORKING MAN
By NEIL SCOTT

Mrs. Holt has woven from the intricate details of an exhalting personality, an equally exhalting story. Her delicate treatment of material of intrinsic sociological value, which usually demands prodigious effort and great interest in the subject, approaches the fascinating qualities of a great novel in its ability to captivate and sustain the interest of the reader. She has imprisoned within the pages of a book for posterity the truth concerning George Washington Carver, philosophically, scientifically, as a man. Not only does the writer convince one that she is an authority on the life of Carver, but her use of important phrases from the spirituals for chapter titles would lead one to to believe that she is familiar with Negro music.

APR 1 1 1943

Dr. Carver, as Mrs. Holt so vividly pictures him, is another great American success story. Like Edison and Ford, Carver came from nowhere to benefit all mankind by the fruits of his handiwork, but unlike Edison and Ford, he could not enjoy the fullness of American life because he was a black man. However, the great perseverance in the face of adversities, his tolerance even while being oppressed by bigots, and his unerring faith in God. This is a book for the working masses, of which Carver never relinquished his right to belong.

APR 1 1 1943

DR. CARVER, THE TEACHER
By ROY WILKINS

To this reviewer, that is the great theme of this book: Carver the teacher. He did invaluable work for the youth as a whole. Unquestionably, he benefited great industries, notably the peanut industry. But by far his greatest work was the transmission of his full knowledge to the people who needed it most. APR 1 1 1943

Great honors came to him. Great monetary rewards were offered him, all of which he refused. Throughout his life he was an humble and practical Christian and one of the greatest puzzles to him was that man could be so selfish and, as the biographer says, so "ugly" in his relations with other men. Carver was confused, bewildered an hurt by the outside world and as the years passed, he withdrew more and more into his laboratory and living quarters at Tuskegee. He was content to serve mankind, taking little for himself. As one turns the pages of this revealing biography, watching the fascinating story unroll, it seems incredible that a person of this simplicity and humility, with a creed of love and concern for the welfare of his fellowman could have lived and followed in the cold, harsh twentieth century. This book is an inspiration to all persons, black and white, rich in its story of a fine human being, and packed in addition with much information upon Tuskegee Institute and upon that critical era in the development of the Negro from Reconstruction days to the post world war period. Mrs. Holt, who spent three years working on the volume, has caught the spirit of Carver and the picture of this era in a manner that canont help but satisfy readers.

APR 1 1 1943

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY
REVIEWED BY A. R. MORE HOUSE—YALE UNIVERSITY

George W. Carver was one of the great spirits of our age. To him in search of an education, it was once said: "We don't take niggers here." And yet, "his knowledgeable hands could make lace copying the intricate designs of spider-webs." His creative mind make discoveries that revolutionized agriculture; he was a pioneer of dehydration and chemurgy; his gifts and charm make him the friend of Henry Ford, Henry Wallace, Thomas Edison and Franklin D. Roosevelt. And his spiritual insight made him see that in his laboratory, he was the instrument and servant of God, through whom he thought and for whose children, black and white, he could do more, if his prayers were mixed with his labors. He recalls the Saint of whom Thomas O'Kempes wrote, "the more he was undistracted and inwardly simple, so much the more was he able to profound subject for his wind was enlightened from above." The race of man is immeasurably enriched by what George Carver was and by what he did by virtue of the light within him.

APR 1 1 10.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

The Story Of That Great Negro, Great Scientist—Carver

MAY 6 1943

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, by Rackham Holt. Published by Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc.; 335 pages; $3.50.

MAY 6 1943

Here is the untimely biography of a great American who chanced to be, by adoption and by long devotion, an Alabamian, and who was by general consent one of the greatest of all Alabamians—a timely biography because it is published soon after Dr. Carver's death. In fact, the hope had been that it would be completed and published before his death.

The author devoted a period of some three years to the gathering of material and the writing of the story of Dr. Carver's marvelous life and career—the last three years the great Negro scientist lived. Thus Rackham Holt had an opportunity, rarely afforded, of working closely with his subject, and getting at first hand impressions and insights into mind and heart that so greatly enrich a biography.

This, together with the evidently tireless and painstaking labors and the keen zest she had for her task, enabled Rackham Holt to do a worthy job on a worthy subject. Those of us who knew Dr. Carver, well can find in this book an accurate and faithful literary portrait of him. The author has not merely recognized and presented the factual story of his life and the significance of his numerous and varied scientific contributions; she has also caught the spirit and personality of George W. Carver so that they shine out through the lines of her book with a light and meaning which only the spiritually blind can fail to see.

MAY 16 1943

The story of George W. Carver's childhood; of his amazing early interest in plants and flowers, which became so well known in the community that the uneducated little Negro boy was called "the Plant Doctor"; of his quest for an education which led him finally through Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, then the foremost agricultural institution in the country; of his teaching there for a few years, and of his call to Tuskegee Institute by Booker T. Washington in 1896; of the work which he did there for more than 40 years and which brought him renown the world over—all this fascinating story is interestingly

MAY 1 D 1943

and warmly told. But there is moremuch of Tuskegee Institute and of many illustrations in it, some of to the book than a mere narrative; Alabama in them excellent; but the hopes the there is in it a reflection of the The only disappointing thing publishers can bring out a cheaper ships and under handicaps often beyond the reach of so many soon for the sake of struggles of a race through hard-about the book is that its price puts perhaps a paper-bound—edition crushing, and of the inspiration and Negroes. A book dealer says it is who cannot pay so much.—O. Z. determination of leaders of the race pitiful to see the many Negroes —such great leaders as George W. who want to buy the story of one of Carver and Booker T. Washington, their great men but who, on learn-

For there is much of Dr. Wash-ing the price, are compelled to ington in this book as well as of Dr. Carver, and there is naturally, is high, no doubt, because of the

8-1943

Carver

The Story of Dr. George Washington Carver, Genius Born in Slavery . . .!

The Worker New York, N. Y.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER: AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY. By Rackham Holt. 342 pp. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc.

MAY 2 1943

By Eugene Gordon

Most of the questions which Americans in general—and Negro Americans in particular—have been asking for years concerning George Washington Carver have finally been answered in one thrilling volume. Rackham Holt's biography of this black man, whose genius extended through the fields of botany, mycology, genetics, agriculture, dietetics — and even beyond—and who made invaluable contributions in all these fields, is the most complete and the best thus far.

MAY 2 194

The biographer, widow of the late Guy Holt, publisher, has hitherto confined her work to the library and to ghost-writing. She was attracted to Dr. Carver by the great man's personality.

Since she wrote the book largely in Dr. Carver's presence, literally following him around the Tuskegee Institute grounds and his laboratory for nearly three years, notebook in hand, it is hardly likely that this biography will soon be supplanted by a more thorough or a more authoritative one. It seems to have missed nothing of consequence.

The child had always been "so tiny and puny, born of the brutal war days when farms lay desolate, men hid their families and their animals in the deep woods, and nobody had enough to eat." Raiders one blistery-cold night in 1865 stole Mary, his mother, and him, from the Carvers, galloping across the Missouri border into Arkansas.

A bushwacker namely Bently knew Mary's whereabouts and would steal her back if he was paid enough. Moses Carver told Bently to bring her back, "and I'll give you 40 acres of my best timber and Pacer—he's a good horse."

MAY 2 1943

Called the 'Little Plant Doctor'

Bently never found Mary. He brought back the sick child.

RACKHAM HOLT

George grew up in Moses and Sue Carver's household. He was called, even then, "the little plant doctor." Dwelling in the foothills of Missouri's Ozark Mountains and far from neighbors, the child lived mostly with himself. His curiosity about natural phenomena made him ask questions; his insistence upon the right answers made him seek further: What is rain? What makes it? What is hail and what is snow? What is a flower? Why are flowers of different colors?

Years later he himself had answered all these—and additional —questions, scientifically. He had begun seeking the answers, however, in his early childhood.

During those early days, too, he developed the remarkable memory which, in later years, aided in the building of the Carver legend. "That Professor over at Tuskegee? Why, he knows **everything!**" This memory is proved in the detailed facts of childhood given to Mrs. Holt. She has beautifully reconstructed those days, when little George, a lone Negro child among white children and grownups, learned first that there was a "difference" when he saw a black man lynched.

The Discovery of White Prejudice

MAY 2 1943

George was then about 14 years old.

From that time the knowledge of a "difference" settled in his conscience; and the reader here is reminded a little of that same discovery by another eminent American—Dr. William E. B. Du-Bois. George Carver, when he found out, did not, however, become embittered and hate all on white persons. George, sickly little Negro boy, thought people were trying to hide their inferiority when they attempted to dominate him.

MAY 2 1943

He left the Carvers at this time and was, thereafter, to the end of his life, on his own. At Simpson College, Ind' nola, Iowa, the Reverend Edmund M. Holmes, the president, allowed him to occupy a shack near the campus and there he painted flowers and made wax models of flowers from memory. He knew already, now, that he was branded.

He studied in 1891 at the Iowa State College of Agriculture, Henry Cantwell Wallace, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under Harding and Coolidge and father of Vice President Wallace, being his professor. The tall, skinny, slightly stooped black youth, the most brilliant student in his class, couldn't at first get in the dining room. He had to eat with the fieldhands, in the basement. He was later to be the most popular undergraduate in that college dining room, students and faculty members jealous to get a chance to sit at his table.

Much has been made of Dr. Carver's being a "natural" scientist, implying that he didn't have to study

MAY 2

He once argued in botany class that he didn't see why he should learn why a leaf was orbicular-lobed or ovate-serrate.

"I want to know what the plant is."

"But you have to learn that, first," the teacher insisted.

"I dont believe it. Having to learn all that is the reason for most students' hating botany. Why can't you put plants into groups and say that all in that group will have certain characteristics? In the begonia family the leaf will always be shield-shaped." MAY 2 1943

Such views showed that he accepted nothing on faith but was an original thinker.

Dr. Carver did not find going always smooth at Tuskegee. Negro students—and some members of the faculty, too—having been taught by the white-supremacy South that no black man was capable of achieving greatness couldn't believe their own eyes. Most of Tuskegee—that is, the town, which, but for the Institute, would be just a black dot on the map of Alabama—stood aloof and sneered, or grouched enviously, at the same time admitting, by its acceptance of Dr. Carver's gifts, that he was a superior man. MAY 2 1943

Mrs. Holt, in her over-eagerness to reproduce the authentic Southern canvas against which to project her subject, too frequently, it seems, employs the epithet which Negro people hate above all others. When quoted as parts of the conversations of prejudiced white Southerners, her purpose being to highlight Dr. Carver's superiority, use of such epithets may be excused. I think, however, that some readers may feel Mrs. Holt strove too desperately for "realism" and that they may let their resentment deprive them of the privilege of reading one of the best biographies of an American we have had in a long, long time. MAY 2 1943

This biography is certainly one of the very best.

BOOK REVIEWS ON LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

By—RACKHAM HOLT

Carver, The Working Man—

Nell Scott

Mrs. Holt has woven from the intricate details of an exa[illegible] ing personality, an[illegible] equally exhalting story. Her delicate treatment of material of intrinsic sociological value, which usually demands prodigious effort and great interest in the subject, appeals to the fasci- nating qualities of a great novel in its ability to captivate and sustain the interest of the reader. She has imprisoned within the pages of a book for posterity the truth concerning George Washington Carver, philosophically, scientifically, as a man. Not only does the writer convince one that she is an authority on the life of Carver, but her use of important phrases from the spirituals for chapter titles would lead one to believe that she is familiar with Negro music.

MAY 2 1943

DR. CARVER THE TEACHER—

By Roy Wilkins

To this reviewer, that is the great theme of this book: Carver teacher. He did [illegible] for the South, a whole questionably he benefitted outside world and as more and try. By far, his greatest work the transmission of his [illegible] the truth con- cerning George Washington Car- ver, philosophically, scientifically, as a man. Not only does the writer convince one that she is an au- thority on the life of Carver, but her use of important phrases from the spirituals for chapter titles would lead one to believe that she is familiar with Negro music.

Dr. Carver, as Mrs. Holt so vividly pictures him, is another great American success story. Like Edi- son and Ford Carver came from the humble and by practical Christian and of the greatest puzzles to him was that man could be so selfish and, as the biographer says, so "ugly" in his relations with other men. Carver was bewildered and hurt by the years more and more into his laboratory and living quarters at Tuskegee. He was con- tent to serve mankind, taking lit- tle for himself. As one turns the pages of this revealing biography, one comes to realize that the most. Great honor came to him. Great rewards were offered watching the fascinating story un- folded of his right to be- never relinquished his right to be- monetary rewards, but he never relinquished his right to be- [illegible] ing faith in God. This is a book for the working masses, of which Carver was one, and his unerring faith in

roll, it seems incredible that a person of this simplicity and humility with a creed of love and concern for the welfare of his fellowmen could have lived and followed in the cold, hard twentieth century.

This book is an inspiration to all persons, black and white, rich in its story of a fine human being, and packed in addition with much information upon Tuskegee Institute and upon that critical era in the development of the Negro from Reconstruction days to the post world war period. Mrs. Holt, who spent three years working on the volume, has caught the spirit of Carver and the picture of this era in a manner that cannot help but satisfy readers.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
An American—Reviewed by A. R.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
An American Biography—By Rackham Holt
Reviewed By A. R. Morehouse—Yale University

George Washington Carver was one of the great spirits of our age. To him, in search of an education, it was once said: "We don't take n....rs here." And yet, his knowledgable hands could make lace coping the intricate designs of spider-webs." His creative mind made discoveries that revolutionized agriculture;; he was a pioneer of dehygration and chemurgy; his gifts and charm made him the friend of Henry Ford, Henry Wallace, Thomas Edison and Franklin D. Roosevelt. And his spiritual insight made him see that in his laboratory, he was the instrument and servant of God, through whom he thought and for whose children, black and white, he could do more if his prayers were mixed with his labors. He recalls the Saint of whom Thomas O'Kempes' wrote, "the more he was undistracted and inwardly simple, so much the more was he able to enter into profound subjects, for his mind was enlightened from above." The race of man is immeasurably enriched by what George W. Carver was and by what he did by virtue of the light within him.

George Washington Carver Biography, An Inspiration

APR 16 1943

APR 16 1943

APR 16 1943

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, an American Biography, By Rackham Holt; Doubleday, Doran Publishers; $3.50. This book may be ordered through The Call.

The author, Rackham Holt, was born in Denver, attended high school in Chicago, then attended Columbia university in New York. She spent considerable time in the 1930's traveling through the West Indies, most of Europe and the Orient. She began writing at an early age, and also took library training.

APR 16 194

When in 1923 she married Guy Holt, well-known in the book publishing world, Rackham Holt settled down to the book business, and did a great deal of editorial work and a lot of writing, some of it "ghosting", much of it under her own name. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER is the first full-length work which she has published under her own name. She has spent some four years of work on it, and considers it a great privilege to have had the opportunity of spending a great deal of time with Dr. Carver in the year before his death (January, 1943).

According to her contract signed with the publishers in 1939, half of Mrs. Holt's royalties from her book, GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, will go to Tuskegee institute. The George Washington Carver Foundation at Tuskegee with these funds expects to offer scholarships to talented youth and provide laboratory facilities to carry on Dr. Carver's work.

CARVER, THE WORKING MAN

APR 1.6 19

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To this reviewer, that is the great theme of this book: Carver, the teacher. He did invaluable work for the South as a whole. Unquestionably, he benefitted great industries, notably the peanut industry. But by far his greatest work was the transmission of his full knowledge to the people who needed it most.

Great honors came to him. Great monetary rewards were offered him, all of which he refused. Throughout his life he was an humble and practical Christian and one of the great puzzles to him was that man could be so selfish, and as the biographer says, so "ugly" in his relations with other men. Carver was confused, bewildered and hurt by the outside world and as the years passed, he withdrew more and more into his laboratory and living ...rters at Tuskegee. He was ...nt to serve mankind, taking little for himself.

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SERVANT OF GOD

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APR 16 1943

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APR 16 1943

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Life Of George Washington Carver, Wrom Serfdom To Great Service
Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 20, 1943

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, An American Biography, by Rackham Holt. Doubleday, Doran and Company. Newern York. 1943. 342 pages. Price $3.50.

The life of George Washington Carver is colorful enough in its very essence to provide source material for the most intense romanticist. From captive child to great ... slave ... teemed by the ... of the most citizens of the land ... great for ... but nevertheless ... bare facts in the life of ... Carver.

Rackman Holt makes no effort to tell a romantic story, his volume is a chronicle of a man's arduous climb from serfdom to great service such as can only be rendered by free men. Carver, born about the time the slaves were freed, dedicated all of his abilities and the resources at his command to the sort of research and teaching that was practical for even the poorest and most unlearned negro, or white, Southern farmer.

This volume tells of Carver's childhood, his schooling, his friends, his deep religious faith, and his patient years of teaching and scientific research at Tuskegee Institute in Macon County, Alabama.

The key note of Carver's great contribution to the South was his firm belief that one could and should work with what he has in his own locality, and in his constant trips throughout Macon County among the negro farmers he was forever showing them how they might have a better life, a pleasanter home, and a more productive farm using the simplest of implements and the materials nature provided within reach.

Holt relates much of the history and development of Tuskegee Institute where Dr. Carver lived and worked for so many

His identification with many volumes have been written. However, as the biographer points out, although Dr. Carver was recognized repeatedly by other great men of his time, he has reached into the very day-by-day living of the Deep South and played a larger part than any other one individual in helping farmers, even the poorest, to better living. He was, and is, a fire to the farmers' imagination and ingenuity.—A. H.

Deep South was, as ... out through this volume, ...cious choice by Dr. Carver. ...would like to have pursued ...rtist's career for which he ...great talent; and for his ...us scientific developments ...ad many commercial offers, ...as in his later life sought by ... enterprises. But there was ...uch that Carver could do to ...e ways of helping in the ...l to better ways of living ...he had time for little else.

this volume Carver is por- ...d as a truly great man, as ... of us in this part of the ...try know he was, modest, ...nt, painstaking, beautifully ...ated, brilliant and a genius ... a passion for taking into ...ives of people each piece of ...ledge learned through scien- ... research.

...is difficult for one volume ...ive a really comprehensive ...re of Dr. Carver because so ...y things of great historical ...economic significance supply ...setting or background of his ...emancipation, Southern farm ...omy, the founding and de- ...opment of Tuskegee Institute, ... which